

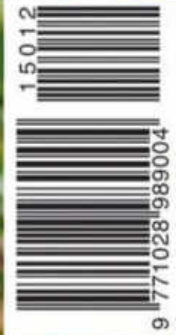
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The verandah of this Constantia home is ideal for parties, page 78.
Photograph: Greg Cox

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ELIZNA ROCHER

SYNDICATION AND EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
MEGAN PLAYTON

FEATURES WRITER
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GARDENS EDITOR
HEIDI BERTISH

CONTRIBUTING GARDENS EDITOR
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CONTRIBUTING TRAVEL WRITER
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Condé Nast Independent Magazines (Pty) Ltd
2nd Floor, 220 on Loop, Loop Street, Cape Town 8001 • PO Box 16414, Vlaeberg 8018
☎ Tel 021 480 2300 ☎ Fax 021 424 6222 ☎ www.houseandgarden.co.za

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Email ☎ subs@ramsaymedia.co.za

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When we promise you 'the best of the best' on the cover, it's not marketing smoke and mirrors, we really do have a particularly impressive selection of features and interiors for you to get stuck into over the holidays. Some, like **Hey, Big Splendour**, page 21, and **Jewel Personality**, page 35, are seasonal standouts, but others are timeless gems like the four homes we feature which, as a whole, represent the range of ways we like to live in this country and the different approaches we take to decorating.

Their standard and style also resonate particularly strongly for me as this is my last issue as Editor, and I wanted to showcase the lifestyle and interiors that captured the spirit of now in SA.

It's a great honour to feature Sheila Boardman's latest home. Her gorgeous store Summerhouse in Constantia was an inspiring source for me when the magazine started in 1998 and her mix of superb antiques and African touches has again manifested in **The Sweet Spot**, page 78. Notice the knockout Kuba-cloth curtains, not for one window, but an enfilade of four which gives the living room a real punch of local pedigree and panache.

Hubert Zandberg, a designer equally at home in the Karoo (where he has farms) or Qatar, takes his signature game-changing curations of renegade luxe to a new level in **All the World's a Stage**, page 106. He's

one of the most interesting and informed designers I have had the pleasure of working with and his convention-defying pairings sum up the seduction of the Afro-Euro genre at this point.

These are exceptional interiors, but we feature a super-compelling garden, too, in **Fine Form**, page 92, which makes the case for structure, symmetry and formal simplicity. It is perfection and looks refreshing, since the current fashion for wild meadow planting encourages exactly the opposite. Well done to Heidi Bertish, Gardens Editor, and Martin Jacobs, Creative Director, for finding the shots that best make this point. I've got 10 years of working with Franchesca Watson on her column to thank for an increased appreciation of landscaping and respect for gardeners who, yes, also use design as a starting point but unlike decorators, design to create a living evolving entity.

Lastly, don't set off for a day in the country without reading **Vine Dining**, page 117, for the latest Winelands hot spots. You'll be impressed not only by the menu innovations, but with the cultivated chic of the restaurants.

On that note, I'd like to toast incoming editor Leigh Robertson and hope she relishes the opportunity to keep *Condé Nast House & Garden* at the leading edge of the best of the best magazines.

Happy holidays.

Siz Munnis



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Contributors

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Jane Broughton

WRITER, **VINE DINING**

'Along the Cape's wine routes, there's an increasingly sophisticated food and wine culture that is dynamic and full of surprises.'

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David Crookes

PHOTOGRAPHER, **BIG SKY COUNTRY**

'We nabbed the last room at the Prince Albert Country Stay – we ate on the stoep and slept in the antique store surrounded by collectables.'

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78



Sarah Heinemann

STYLIST, **THE SWEET SPOT**

'Shooting Soetvlei with Greg was such fun. The toughest thing was deciding what to leave out – there were so many stunning options.'

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FABRIC

Set the Tone

The new Boratti range of fabrics by Designers Guild, available at Home Fabrics, perfectly captures the seasonal mood in an array of on-trend hues, including peony, lavender and violet. Use them to create a fresh take on the classic Christmas bauble, suspended with coloured ribbon. The Saraille Noir linen tablecloth (also by Designers Guild) is the perfect finishing touch. ■ Home Fabrics hf.co.za ▶



DISCOVERIES

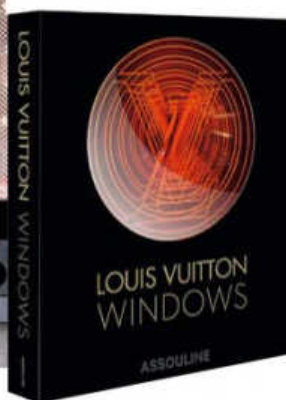


BOOK

Window Shopping

The fantastical vitrines of Louis Vuitton, featuring everything from dinosaurs to Yayoi Kusama's polka dots, have been immortalised in this oversized edition of *Louis Vuitton Windows*.

▪ Assouline 📞 assouline.com
▪ Louis Vuitton ☎ 011 784 9854



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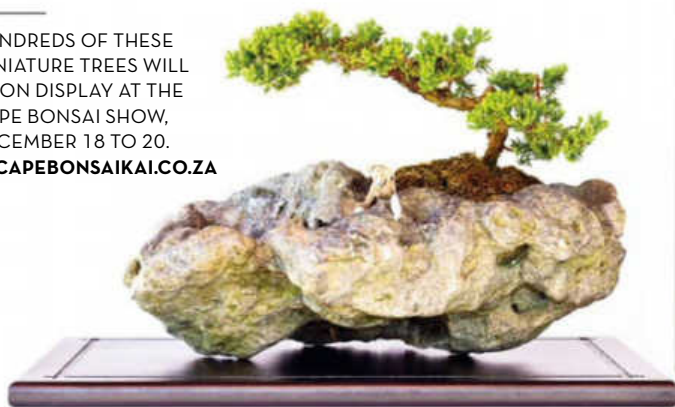
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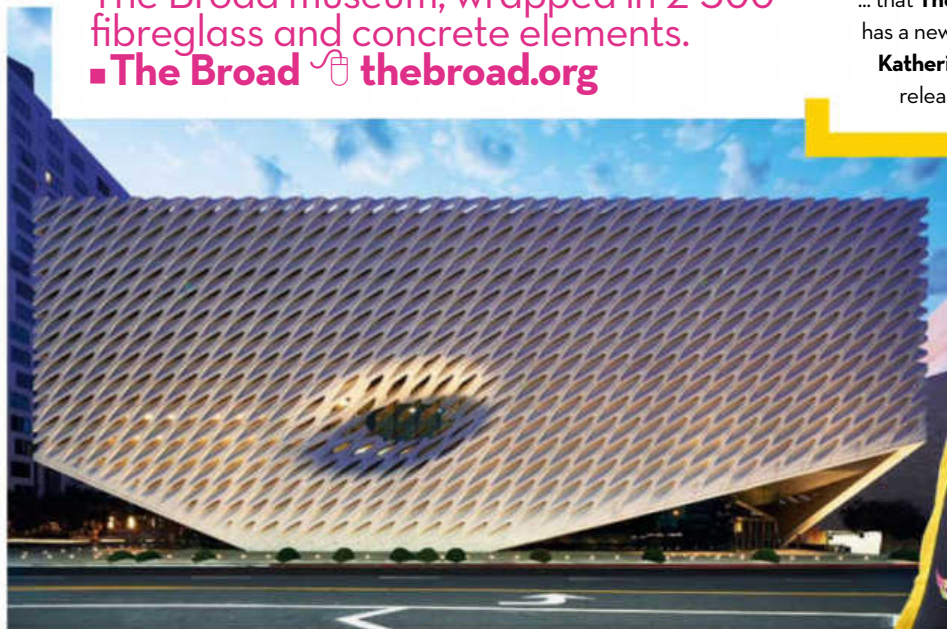
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There's a new icon in Los Angeles – the Diller Scofidio + Renfro designed The Broad museum, wrapped in 2 500 fibreglass and concrete elements.

■ The Broad thebroad.org



H&G HEARS

... that **Zanele Muholi** will be showing her video exhibition *Ayanda & Nhlanhla Moremi's Wedding* at Art Basel Miami this month ... that interior designer **Yelda Bayraktar** has launched a range of African-inspired homewear and fashion ... that **Kelly Higgs** has collaborated with Bloss & Co (blossandco.com) on a range of botanical-inspired printed accessories ... that **The Rug Company** (therugcompany.com) has a new range of Christmas-ready rugs ... that **Katherine-Mary Pichulik** (pichulik.com) has released a new collection of necklaces.

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TOP: Dango light by 21st Livingart | BOTTOM: Persa shade system by Metaform

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THE BROAD MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPH: IWAN BAAN; RIO LARGO PHOTOGRAPH: ROBBIE FREY

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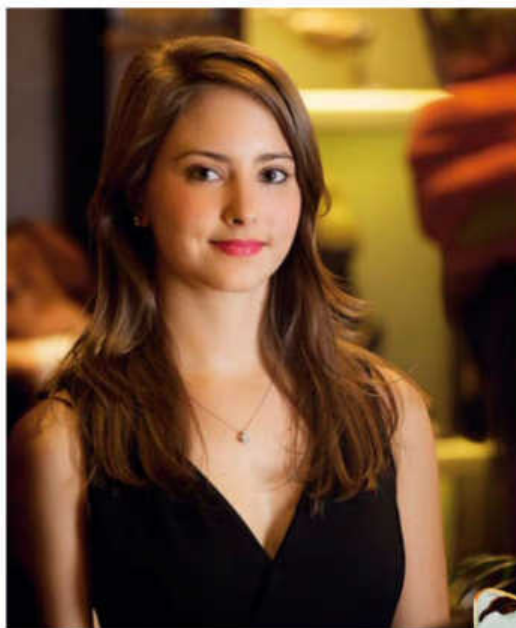
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HEY, BIG SPLENDOUR

Our guide to the season's most covetable gifts, inspired by four South African tastemakers



Tammy Greig

DIAMOND SPECIALIST AT CHARLES GREIG AND GIRL-ABOUT-TOWN

'I like to give presents that people can use over the holiday, like a beach bag, or something for the home, like a Jo Malone candle.'



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Trevor Stuurman

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2



3



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CULTURAL INFLUENCER AND ARTIST

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9



8



7

4



5



6



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Das Auto.



uncommon THREADS

For social entrepreneurs Tracey Chiappini-Young and Karen Jansen, it was the opportunity to give back to local artists that inspired Taunina's luxury bears

TEXT JOCELYN WARRINGTON PRODUCTION MARTIN JACOBS
PHOTOGRAPHS KARL ROGERS



If you go down to Woodstock today, you're in for a big surprise. For every bear that ever there was to covet is gathered in a place where lives are transformed and dreams are made real every day.

Founded by philanthropist-friends Tracey Chiappini-Young, a chartered financial analyst, and American management consultant Karen Jansen, Taunina's bears are sold at the most distinguished luxury stores, including Patrick Mavros in London, Barneys in New York and Apsley House in South Africa, and launch in Shanghai and Tokyo this month. In September alone, three of the hand-embroidered bears were auctioned

off at black-tie events for between \$2 000 and \$5 000 each. And, as if they needed any further endorsing, Prince George was reportedly gifted one as a first birthday present by family friends.

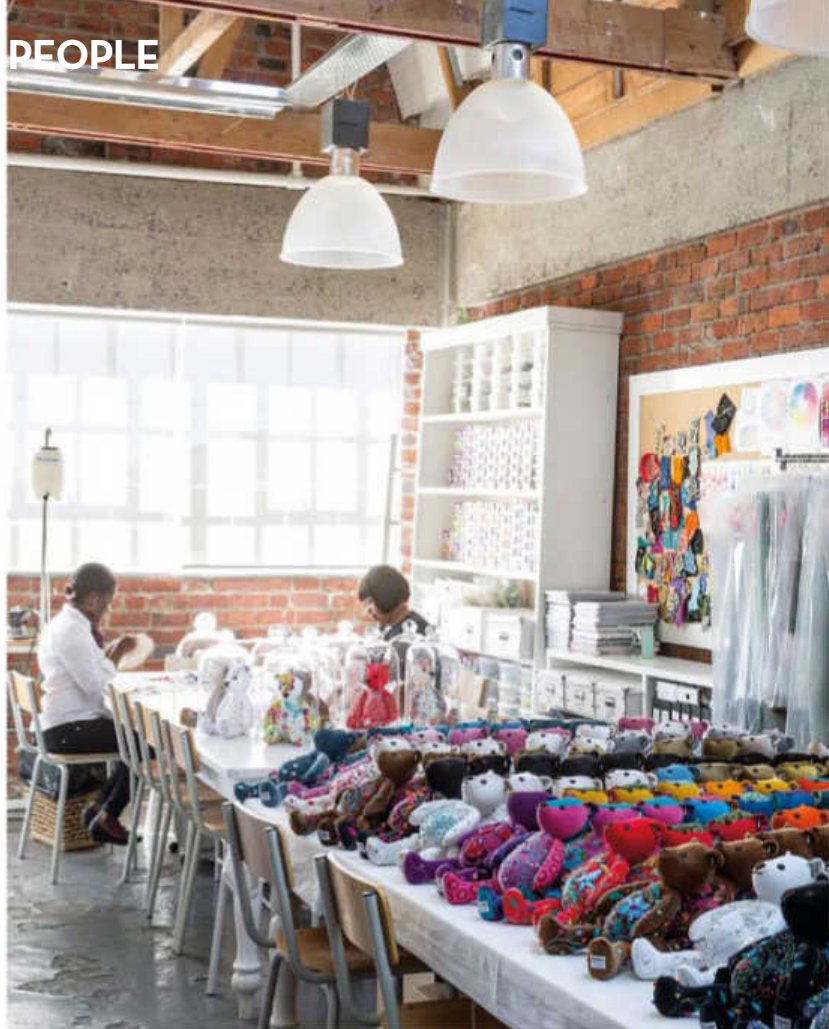
Not only are these meticulously crafted ursine heirlooms coveted from Tokyo to Toronto, they also provide a financial lifeline to the 12 embroiderers — all drawn from impoverished local communities — which Taunina employs permanently at its Cape Town studio. 'We spent two-and-a-half years training the artists and perfecting the product before launching it into the market,' explains Tracey. 'The majority of the sale of each bear goes back to the women who make them. Each bear ▶



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Each bear's design is hand-embroidered; a corner of the Taunina atelier in Woodstock; a bear from the summery Paradise collection; Taunina's co-founder Tracey Chiappini-Young OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Tracey with graphic designer Grace Schutte; finished bears, ready to be shipped off to the UK in time for Christmas; intense focus from embroiderer Vuyiseka Phanzi; only the finest embroidery cottons are used



‘We spent two-and-a-half years training the artists and perfecting the product’
Tracey Chiappini-Young



‘Witnessing the joy the bears give to their owners is second only to seeing the pride they awaken in their creators’

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Gisele Saidi Kasumba and Vuyiseka hard at work in the studio; seamstress Nomgcobo Bangiso puts the final touches on a bear; this handsome fellow is dressed in a sumptuously embroidered New & Lingwood silk print

takes five to seven days to create and is individually designed and embroidered. Within a collection the artists may use a specific colourway or theme to inspire the designs, however each bear is always completely unique.’

Delivered beautifully packaged, each with passport and identifying label on its paw, the bears are dressed in everything from iconic Sanderson and Liberty prints to luscious Dutch velvets and New & Lingwood silks. ‘Given that we hope each bear will be passed from one generation to the next, it is only appropriate that we use fabrics that have historical value,’ says Tracey, adding that each Taunina bear also comes with a note to the recipient, sharing the story of its creation. ‘This is also personalised to reflect the story for the recipient, relaying to him or her how they’ve inspired or are loved by the giver. Needless to say, lots of tears are shed when these gifts are presented.’

Witnessing the joy the bears give to their owners is second only to seeing the pride they awaken in their creators, says Tracey. ‘These women know they are creating the most beautiful bears in the world — ones that people everywhere want to own — and at the same time they are feeding their families through their work. That pride is something you can never take away — it makes the spirit soar.’ ■ **Taunina** 🐻 taunina.com



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JEWEL Personality

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 'FLAMBOYANT' RING IN PLATINUM WITH CORAL, EMERALDS, ONYX, BLACK LACQUER AND DIAMONDS; 'TEINTE DE CARTIER' RING IN WHITE GOLD WITH CORAL, ONYX, CHRYSOPRASE AND DIAMONDS; 'TRINITY DE CARTIER' NECKLACE IN 18CT WHITE GOLD WITH BLACK CERAMIC DIAMONDS; 'FLAMBOYANT' BRACELET IN PLATINUM WITH CORAL, ONYX, EMERALDS AND DIAMONDS; AND 'TEINTE DE CARTIER' BRACELET IN WHITE GOLD WITH CORAL, ONYX, CHRYSOPRASE, CORAL AND DIAMONDS; ALL PRICE ON APPLICATION, CARTIER

Riviera Ready

It should come as no surprise that the new Étourdissant collection of high jewellery by Cartier literally means 'dazzling'. Awash in berry-red rubies, mineral-green emeralds and crystalline diamonds, the collection takes its inspiration from the coruscating waters of the Mediterranean. ▶



Silver Lining

This season, silver goes subtle. Pearls, diamonds and gem accents, such as touches of sapphire or tanzanite, will go a long way in kicking up the glamour without compromising on elegance. The trick is to strike a balance between dazzle and minimalism, so opt for large pieces with intricate design in muted palettes and classic shapes.

1. SAPPHIRE-AND-DIAMOND CARISSA **DROP NECKLACE**, PRICE ON APPLICATION, GRAFF DIAMONDS 2. DIAMOND **RING** IN 18CT WHITE GOLD, R44 995, UWE KOETTER 3. PEARL-AND-DIAMOND **EARRINGS** IN 18CT WHITE GOLD, PRICE ON APPLICATION, VAN DEIJL 4. THE MONOGRAM COLLECTION DISC **PENDANT** IN WHITE GOLD WITH DIAMONDS, R805 000, LOUIS VUITTON 5. MESSIKA JOAILLERIE ROCK AMAZONE **EAR CUFF**, PRICE ON APPLICATION, PICOT & MOSS 6. 'LE BLACK MAGIC' **RING**, PRICE ON APPLICATION, LORRAINE EFUNE 7. ROTARY LUCERNE STAINLESS-STEEL **WATCH**, R7 950, LUXCO 8. BOHÈME MOONGARDEN **EARRINGS** WITH AKOYA PEARLS, R3 775, MONTBLANC 9. DISTINCT WIDE STAINLESS-STEEL **BANGLE** WITH SPARKLING CLEAR CRYSTAL PAVÉ, R2 529, SWAROVSKI 10. MESSIKA JOAILLERIE MANCHETTE AMAZONE **CUFF**, PRICE ON APPLICATION, PICOT & MOSS ▶

1934

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this vintage inspired engagement ring is a tribute to
80 years of fine craftsmanship*



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Gold Rush

When it comes to gold, more is more. Embrace the theatrical luxury of this timeless metal with an eclectic mix of stacked bracelets and intricate patterning on everything from pendants to timepieces. Don't be afraid to incorporate other elements, such as pearls or diamonds, to give your pieces dimension.

1. MONOGRAM SUN **EAR STUDS** IN PINK GOLD WITH DIAMONDS, R32 700, LOUIS VUITTON 2. MONOGRAM IDYLLE DANGLING VARIATIONS **PENDANT** IN WHITE, PINK, AND YELLOW GOLD WITH DIAMONDS, R40 500, LOUIS VUITTON 3. ÂME DE STAR **RING** IN PINK GOLD, R7 700, MONTBLANC 4. DIAMOND TOURMALINE **RING** IN 14CT YELLOW GOLD, PRICE ON APPLICATION, LORRAINE EFUNE 5. TW STEEL **WATCH** WITH CANTEEN LEATHER STRAP AND STAINLESS-STEEL AND ROSE-GOLD PVD, R9 250, LUXCO 6. ÂME DE STAR **NECKLACE** IN PINK GOLD, R68 000, MONTBLANC 7. TRINITY GOLD **BRACELET**, R675 000, CARTIER 8. FREDERIQUE CONSTANT VINTAGE RALLY **WATCH**, R48 995, PICOT & MOSS 9. 9CT ROSE-GOLD **EARRINGS** WITH DIAMONDS, PRICE ON APPLICATION, LUXCO 10. MONOGRAM IDYLLE DANGLING VARIATIONS **RING** IN THREE GOLDS WITH DIAMONDS, R25 400, LOUIS VUITTON ▶

FROM TOP: EASY VELVETS IN 388, ORANGE FABRIC IN 359; MAUVE FABRIC IN 366; ALL MAYROMAC

I love you 100 times

*Set in 18ct White, Yellow and Rose Gold,
the Browns Blossom ring holds 100 diamonds and
precious gemstones. Each of them affirming the love you share.*



BROWNS
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Colour Codes

Go for coloured gems and jewels in chunky, nature-inspired shapes – think flowers and insects – in bold hues. Designers are loving purple, so a splash of this regal tone wouldn't go amiss, while costume jewellery is having a major moment, so embrace your whimsical side by sporting some unashamedly fun pieces.



1. AMETHYST **EARRINGS** IN ROSE GOLD, R81 730, CHARLES GREIG 2. BUTTERFLY **NECKLACE** WITH CRYSTALS, R2 529, SWAROVSKI 3. WHITE-GOLD **EARRINGS** WITH BLACK OPALS, GARNETS, TANZANITES AND DIAMONDS, PRICE ON APPLICATION, CARTIER 4. CHOPARD HAPPY SPORT **WATCH** WITH FLOATING DIAMONDS, R88 350, PICOT & MOSS 5. COLORI **RING** IN WHITE GOLD WITH MORGANITE, BLUE TOPAZ, PERIDOT, PINK TOURMALINE AND PINK AMETHYST, FROM R65 000, MARK GOLD 6. YELLOW-GOLD **NECKLACE** WITH GEMSTONES AND PEARL, R222 500, DOLCE & GABBANA 7. THEO FENNEL SECRET SCENT OPENING **RING** IN 18CT YELLOW GOLD WITH RUBY, EMERALDS AND DIAMONDS, PRICE ON APPLICATION, GEMFIELDS 8. CLUSTER **EARRINGS** IN ROSE GOLD WITH RUBELITE, TOURMALINE AND AMETHYST, R121 550, CHARLES GREIG 9. ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL 'PEARLMASTER' **WATCH** IN YELLOW GOLD WITH SAPPHIRES AND DIAMONDS, R 874 700, ROLEX 10. FROM TOP: ROSE-GOLD TOURMALINE **RING**, R45 750; ROSE-GOLD RUBELITE, AMETHYST AND DIAMOND **RING**, R55 500; ROSE-GOLD RHODALITE, AMETHYST AND DIAMOND **RING**, R32 950, ALL CHARLES GREIG For stockists' details, see page 158

Diamond Butterflies

Diamond butterflies float effortlessly around the 'Circle of Life', forming a symbolic celebration of the changes we experience during life's journey.



BROWNS
THE DIAMOND STORE



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One shower channel, numerous variations

The bandwidth: from extremely long to short, always exact to the millimetre. With corner versions and – as shown here – in U-shape. The design: modern puristic in stainless steel – matt or polished as well as black and white – suitable to any tile look. The drainage capacity: with up to 2.4 l/s, even rain or waterfall showers do not present a problem. Simple cleaning is made possible by the narrow construction and the floating standing grate. Once more, typical Viega. **Viega. A better idea!**

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● Directional design and decor ideas to ● revive your space

inspire

1 THE PASTEL UNDERGROUND

Offset the strong vertical focus of bevelled subway tiles, available from Italtile, with a black-and-white vanity topped with a pink deck-mounted basin and black tap. Here, the Flaminia basin and cabinet by Marcante-Testa show how to successfully pair pale sherbet tones. **Get the look** A colourful array of ceramic basins from Ceramica Globo are available at LAVO Bathroom Concepts. ▶



UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

The modern bathroom has evolved from being a purely functional space to becoming a spa in the home. Create a domestic sanctuary with these ideas

SHOWERS

Make the cubicle as user-friendly as possible for the space. A steam-shower function is a luxurious benefit.

2 HELVETICA NEW BOLD

Recreate the calming effect of a capacious sauna room, but forego traditional timber and opt for an updated look in grey slate and Dornbracht brass fittings. The key features here are the built-in seat and the large showerhead, which recreates the feel of a tropical downpour. **Get the look** For a similar brass-finished look, visit Flush Bathrooms for a range of elegant accessories.

3 A CLEAN BREAK

Introduce geometric design by containing the shower space within a glass cubical. Contrast soft lighting with stark white to create a sleek, ultra-modern space and follow through the minimalist theme with a single showerhead and mixer in a clean, basic design. **Get the look** Cobra sells showerheads and mixers, as well as a host of accessories to suit this look. ▶



Must-have accessories

Contemporary chromewear with ergonomic designs are right on trend.

- 1. RAINSHOWER® F-SERIES AQUASYMPHONY SHOWERHEAD, PRICE ON APPLICATION, GROHE
- 2. VOLA '060' WALL-MOUNTED SHOWERHEAD IN CHROME, R21 475 (INCLUDING SHOWER ARM), STILL THE BATHROOM GALLERY
- 3. CROMA SELECT 'E 180 2JET' SHOWERPIPE, R7 530.70, HANSGRÖHE

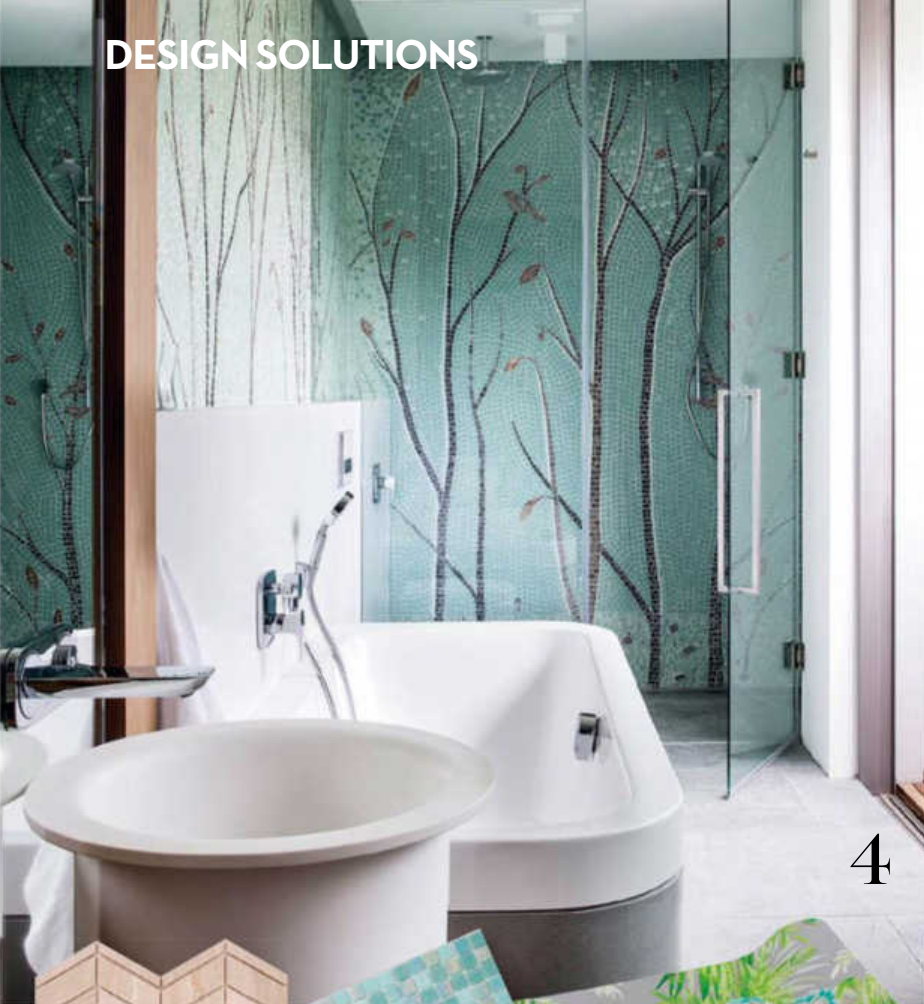


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4

FINISHES

Use the walls to give your bathroom that wow factor with these fresh takes on tiles and wallpaper.

4 NATURAL WONDER

Using small, coloured glass tiles, ceramic artist Lovell Friedman designed and installed this calming mural of whimsical, bare-branched trees. **Get the look** Visit Pudlo for a range of tiles to create your own mosaic.

5 JUNGLE FEVER

For a wild yet intimate atmosphere, boldly evoking a lush location, decorate your walls with a striking floral or botanical print. **Get the look** Mavromac stocks this 'Martinique' wallpaper.

6 SHOWY PATTERN

This herringbone-style wall feature is ideal for a neutral colourway. Achieve this effect by grading the different tones and remember that the tiles will need to be cut. **Get the look** Rudi's Choice, Caesarstone and WOMAG offer marble tiles in many colours. ▶

1. CHEVRON WOODGRAIN MARBLE MOSAIC, R280 PER SHEET, ITALTILE **2. GLASS MOSAIC ITALIA MIXES 'CHIQUITA' TILE**, R161.25 PER SHEET, DOUGLAS JONES **3. 'WOVEN PEARL' CERAMIC MATT WALL TILE**, R673, KENZAN TILES **4. OSBORNE & LITTLE MATTHEW WILLIAMSON SAMANA 'BIRDS OF PARADISE W6655-04' WALLPAPER**, R3 213 PER ROLL, HOME FABRICS



5



6



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Price subject to change

BATHS

More than a functional fixture, the bathtub, from shape to material, has become a statement of style.

7 A NEW TWIST

For a contemporary take on traditional baths, this Patricia Urquiola-designed modern steel bath with a white finish is clean and simple. It also comes with a shelf and backrest for extra comfort. Select taps in the same finish, such as these 'Fez' mixers in white with wooden accents, to add warmth to the space. **Get the look** Get this Agape freestanding 'Vieques' bath, R140 000, from LAVO Bathroom Concepts.

8 CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Let your bath shine by positioning it as the focal point of your bathroom. An alternative to copper baths, the silver-plated bath in this indulgent space, designed by Marianne Brandi, comes complete with a wet-room area. When it comes to a free-standing tub, ensure the shape is as comfortable as it is aesthetically pleasing. **Get the look** Visit Victorian Bathrooms for classic tubs in different metallic finishes, such as the 'Bateau' bath in a polished pewter skirt.



7



Must-have accessories

From heated rails to sleek soap dishes, here are key elements to complete the look in your bathroom.

1. KARREE CHROME GLASS HOLDER, R950, DURAVIT
2. DORNBRACHT 'DEQUE' WALL-MOUNTED SOAP DISH, R3 400, FLUSH BATHROOMS
3. 'ARCADE' CONSOLE BASIN WITH VANITY IN OLIVE, R20 500, VICTORIAN BATHROOMS
4. 'TANGENT L' HEATED LADDER RAIL, R4 990, JEEVES *For stockists' details, see page 158*



8

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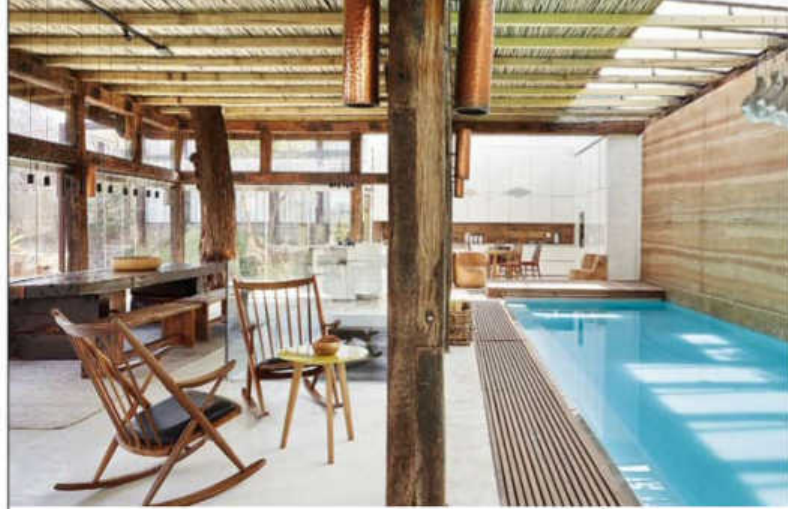
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Mumtaz Dasoo

MUMTAZ 'D' INTERIORS

'Conjure up elements in rich metallic tones, bring in clusters of reflective pieces and touches of plush materials. A home should have the feeling of a decadent boudoir to live fantasies in.'

LEE BROOM 'FULCRUM'
SUSPENSION LIGHTS IN BRASS,
R7 545 PER PENDANT,
CRÉMA DESIGN

Luxe Update

Top interior designers share tricks of the trade on how to glam up your space

Suzanne Sharp

THE RUG COMPANY

'Add a rug with a high standard of craftsmanship – it will lend a feeling of comfort, and a luxurious and glamorous touch.'



'AD CS UNIT'
CABINET,
R25 000,
ANATOMY
DESIGN

Andrea Kleinloog

ANATOMY DESIGN

'I think the most effective way of adding luxury to a space is to introduce dramatic pieces of furniture that combine materials such as wood and metallics with a deep colour palette.'

THE UPDATE



FROM LEFT: SARAH ORD CRAYOLA 'BRUSH' WALLPAPER IN TIFFANY, AND 'SCRIBBLE' WALLPAPER IN CANARY, R450 PER SQUARE METRE, BOTH AVAILABLE FROM SARAH ORD INTERIORS

Sarah Ord SARAH ORD INTERIORS

'Cocoon the room with rich fabrics and textures to turn it into a jewel box of colours. Go wild with mineral tones on every surface and accessorise with onyx, old gold, crystal and marble.'



Francois du Plessis FRANCOIS DU PLESSIS INTERIORS

'Glamour is all in the small details – it's very important to have dimmable lighting to set a sultry mood and, always, dramatic fresh flowers.'



Craig Jacobs

HEAD INTERIORS

'Building a tableaux by clustering objects with different heights and textures adds interest to a room. Start by placing items on a Perspex or reflective mirror base – this oozes opulence and sophistication.'





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PLASCON 'ROSE SHADOW',
R375 PER 5 LITRES,
BUILDERS WAREHOUSE

Joanne Taylor

TAYLORED SPACES

'Use soft tones, such as nudes and pinks. It does not have to be feminine and can be made less so by adding a contemporary edge and shades of greys. Layer beautiful textures – it adds to the luxury factor.'



BELOW: 'MODERN HURRICANE' LANTERN IN GLASS AND BRASS, PRICE ON APPLICATION, RALPH LAUREN HOME *For stockists' details, see page 158*



Sarah Stevens

CORE DESIGN

'One of the easiest and most effective ways to add interest to your terrace or pool deck is with glass flair lanterns in the evening. It creates a sultry mood in the moment and looks polished.'



Nikki Drummond

NIKKI DRUMMOND DESIGN

'You can create a wow moment in any room. Contrast dark, lush shades and vibrant pops of colour for an elegantly dramatic look, as depicted in the bookcase nook of this kitchen.'



<LOOKING BOTH WAYS>

COLOUR OF
THE YEAR 2016
MONARCH GOLD
20YY 36/370



The importance of weighing up opposite opinions and views has never been stronger – Global Dulux Aesthetic Centre, Netherlands.

This year, South Africa's most loved paint brand, Dulux reveals that the overriding trend for 2016 is 'Looking both Ways' as we look for inspiration from the past to be able to design for the future.

By collaborating with international design experts, we are able to identify long term, evolving trends in architecture, fashion as well as colour and translate these insights into an accessible range of cutting-edge trends and colour palettes that we can all recognise.

Duality is the driving influence for 2016 and is embedded in the Colour of the Year as well as the following distinctive themes - **Heritage & Future, Words & Pictures, Dark & Light** and **The Grid & Letting Go**.

'Warm pink tones combined with Monarch Gold add a touch of elegance and flair to any room.'



Monarch Gold

20YY 36/370

COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2016 & COLOUR OF THE YEAR PALETTE

Gold and Gold tones are being used everywhere in the design world

This colour and its nuances have become a prominent influence in fields that span graphic design, architecture, fashion, beauty as well as interior decorating.

Dulux Monarch Gold - a colour that reflects richness in heritage, is both bright enough to attract attention and combines beautifully with the sophisticated palette we've identified for 2016. You can combine **Dulux Monarch Gold** with muted pink and relaxed neutrals for an intriguing opulent effect or pastel blue-greens and bold rich yellow for something more surprising.

Download the Dulux Visualizer™ app for free and picture the Dulux Colour of the Year – **Monarch Gold** 20YY36/370 on your walls.

RUM CARAMEL 1

SALISBURY STONES 3

SEA URCHIN 4

HIGHLAND FALLS 4

COLOUR OF
THE YEAR 2016
MONARCH GOLD
20YY 36/370



Heleen Van Gent
Creative Director
AkzoNobel Global
Aesthetic Center



MONARCH GOLD
20YY 36/370

SALISBURY STONES 3

SOFT CINNEBAR 5

Colour references are as accurate as printing will allow. Please refer to the Dulux in-store stripe cards for an accurate representation of the colour.

DARK & Light

Celebrate the night by enjoying the mystery and beauty of the dark.

Just as we need darkness in order to see the stars in the night sky more clearly, the play of light is best portrayed in contrast to dark hues. Many of the colours in this palette blend seamlessly together, recalling the tones of both dusk and dawn during the 'golden hour.'

Download the Dulux Visualizer™ app for free and picture any colour from The Dulux **Dark & Light** colour palette on your walls.

SOFT MAPLEWOOD 1

KHAKI MISTS 1

SAPPHIRE SPRINGS 1

AZURE FUSION 1



MARASCHINO MOCHA 1

We have always been obsessed with light.
But we also need the dark for a healthy,
well rested life.



ORCHID OPERA 5

TARRAGON GLORY 6

FLAME FRENZY 5



THE GRID & Letting go

Urban lifestyle yearns for controlled chaos.

We are increasingly seeing the appeal of going 'off grid' in order to find ourselves in the modern world. Office workers play table tennis before work. Digital agencies organise craft clubs, valuing the chance to produce something physical and tangible.

Freedom within a framework allows us the opportunity to express ourselves within the reassuring boundaries of structure. It is impossible to go back to the wild or living offline without a frame of reference.

This trend allows the imagination to flourish with vivid and playful hues and yet is grounded by the simplicity of black and white.



ORCHID OPERA 5

SUMATRAN MELODY 4

DUSTED MOSS 2



FLAME FRENZY 5



SUN DUST 1

Download the Dulux Visualizer™ app for free and picture any colour from **The Grid & Letting Go** colour palette on your walls.

Words & PICTURES

WILD MUSHROOM 4

MARBLE SWIRL 6



There is a new found power in graphics and statements.

The old phrase "a picture paints a thousand words" has now almost become reversed, since words, whether spoken or written, are forever being squeezed in our fast-paced lives. They are restricted and shortened on social media, while we increasingly communicate using pictures alone. As a consequence, there is a new found power in words – the art of traditional storytelling is thriving in clubs and societies devoted to its ability to captivate the imagination.

This trend can be seen in architecture and interior design through the use of lettering; but rather being in opposition to images, the one completes the other.

The corresponding colour palette uses the blue of ink and grey of graphite in contrast to the pastel like tones familiar with smartphone and social media filters.

MOON WAVES 1



GREY STEEL 4

TWISTED BAMBOO 1

HIGHLAND FALLS 4



picture it, before you paint it.

See any of these trending colours live on your walls with the new Dulux Visualizer™ app.

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gardens

Inspiring spaces, practical ideas and must-have species

Blooms Abound

Salvias breathe new life into the garden: they are a cinch to grow, flower profusely, are immune to most diseases and pests, and their nectar-laden flowers are irresistible to bees, butterflies and birds

I have often been transfixed by the sight of a dozen or more small birds flashing in and out among my salvias in the garden,' says specialist salvia grower Jenny Ferreira.

After being inundated with requests for plants from visitors to her Wellington garden, Jenny realised that many gardeners craved unusual plants not readily available from local nurseries. This was the start of her passion for growing salvias – many of them raised from seeds sent to her by enthusiasts from around the globe. ►



SALVIA GUARANITICA
'BLACK & BLUE'



THE IRIDESCENT BLUE **SALVIA GUARANITICA** 'COSTA RICA BLUE' LOOKS FABULOUS WHEN COMBINED WITH GRASS SPECIES



SALVIA CANARIENSIS
IN WHITE

GROWING

When you feel that your garden has little else to offer, salvias can bring your beds back to life with a kaleidoscope of hues and a long flowering season. Plant them in pots or in beds in free-draining soil in a sunny to shaded position, depending on the species.

Some, such as the *Salvia dorisiana* – one of Jenny's favourites – prefers shade and produces a showy mass of lipstick-pink flowers relished by sunbirds. *S. guaranitica* 'Black & Blue' is as happy in full sun as it is in shade and *S. oxyphora*, a recent discovery from Bolivia, prefers sun but can take a little shade. If you're planting in a hot, sunny position, the giant *S. canariensis* (in white or purple) is the best choice.

Salvias are an unfussy bunch, but do need a good watering to settle in after planting. Salvias grow easily from cuttings (best done in autumn) and seeds (best sown in early spring).

PRUNING

Most salvias can be pruned back by a third after flowering – generally in winter. This will encourage the plants to send out more flowering stalks and prevent them from becoming top-heavy. Remove entire stems as they finish flowering for a second flush of flowers. If you're unsure which to cut, remove the oldest stems first. After flowering, many salvias will show signs of new growth lower down the stem, which is a good indication of where to prune.

Winter flowering varieties, such as *S. dorisiana*, *S. purpurea* and *S. karwinskii*, should be pruned in May to delay flowering until late winter and extend the blooms into spring. Throughout the year deadheading and tip-pruning will encourage a compact growth habit and prolong the flowering of your plants.

Stockists ■ Jenny Ferreira

📧 jenny.ferreira01@gmail.com

■ Fairholme 🌐 fairholmeplants.co.za



SALVIA OXYPHORA

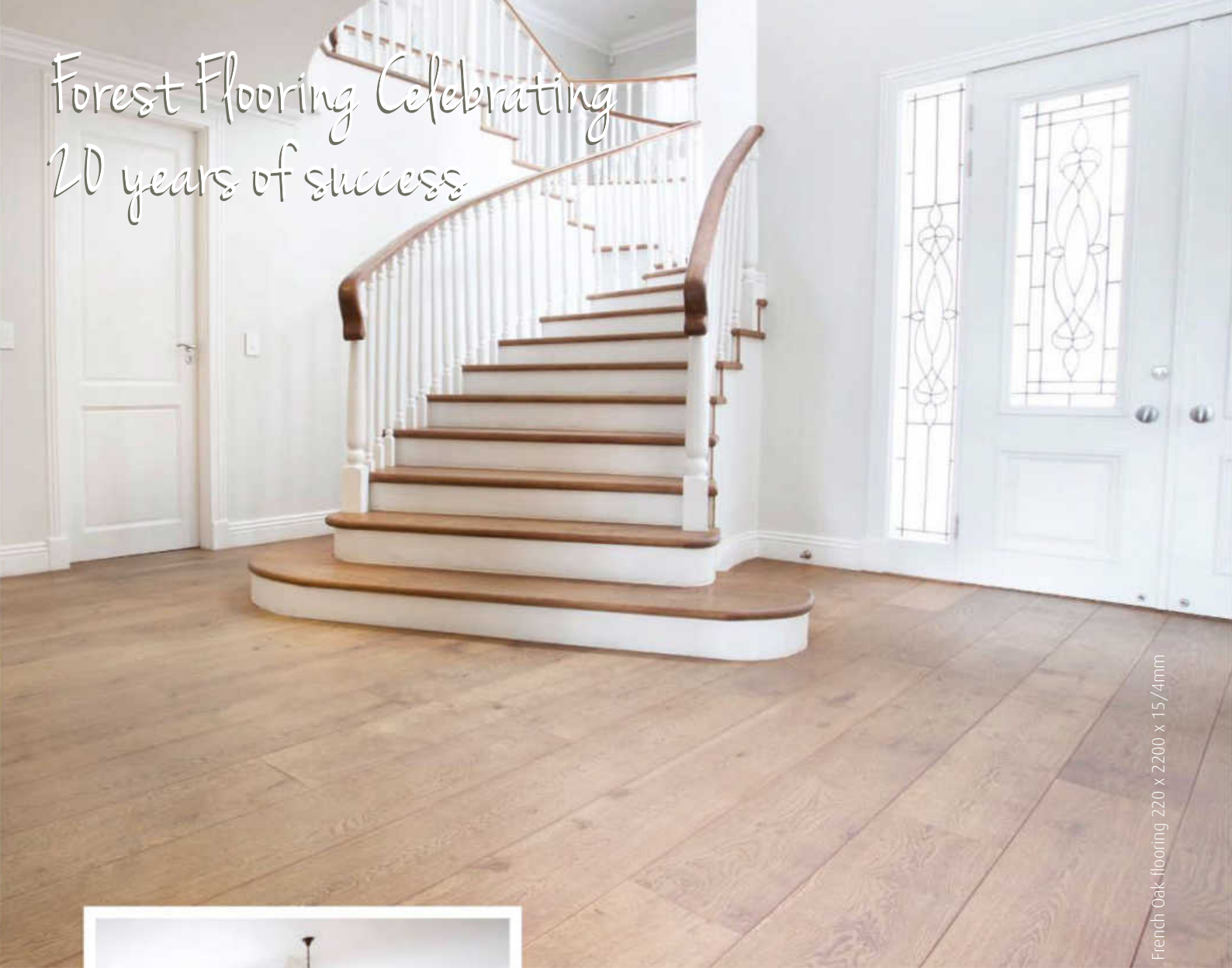


SALVIA DORISIANA



SALVIA DISCOLOR

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Lock Up and Grow

Landscape designer Franchesca Watson shares tips on how to prepare your garden for your time away

It's that wonderful time of the year when you're locking up your home and heading off for the summer holidays. You'll need to make arrangements for all the people and things you're leaving behind: house, pets, staff, perhaps even the children. Your garden is no exception.

December and January are fast growing months all over South Africa. In order to take full advantage of the seasonal development, and to avoid coming home to a wilderness of long grass and perhaps even plant casualties, here are some things to keep in mind.



1 LAWN It's best to make arrangements for your lawn to be mowed weekly if you don't want to return to a knee-high meadow.

2 SERVICE Servicing your garden equipment before you leave is a good way to prevent drama. Ensure your mowers, boreholes, filters and irrigation systems are working well, and that the irrigation controller has fresh batteries in case of a power cut.

3 MULCHING Mulch and feed your plants about three weeks before you leave (presuming you have already fed the garden in spring), and make sure that a thick layer of mulch is spread over all the beds. The best mulch is compost, but if you really like bark, a little additional nitrogen will be beneficial. Mulch will cut down on weed growth and will insulate against any intense heat, which could cause damage.

4 PRUNING If pruning is necessary, keep it down to a minimal to avoid exposed wood burning in the summer heat. But do have a go at anything that may set off your alarm system unnecessarily while you are away.

5 POT PLANTS Pots are a problem if you water them by hand. Move them into the shade if you can and place them in beds where they can get overspray from the irrigation system. Mulching them thickly will also help, especially those you can't move out of the sun.

6 NEW PLANTS Avoid planting anything new in the garden in the month before you go away, longer if possible. Plants are vulnerable when newly planted and need a bit of observation and special care, and you don't want to be worrying about them while on holiday.

LEFT Before going away, allow your sculpted plants to go untrimmed. The added length will help to protect them from the sun

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Water Wise

Water in the garden brings an outdoor space to life – it creates sound and movement, and holds the potential to soothe or energise. Be inspired by what can be achieved



Style Savage

A simple rill transforms a once-neglected space into an elegant garden corner. Here, the awkward slope has been terraced to create a succession of stepped waterfalls that introduce the sound of running water. Grasses and perennials in muted tones make for great transition plants to merge new and existing garden spaces. *Festuca glauca* shimmers down the sides of the rill and swathes of *Pericaria amplexicaulis* 'Orange field' are planted on either side, using the darker cultivar, *P. amplexicaulis* 'Blackfield', to create depth. ▶



← Centre Stage

In a bold move, garden designer Charlotte Rowe introduced a water feature onto this terrace with striking results. Dramatic aesthetics aside, it's also a clever way to visually separate sitting and dining areas, as well as connect a terrace with a lawned garden below. Allow space for symmetrically placed planting beds and anchor your look with architecturally shaped plants, such as the buxus and Rosemary used here.

📍 charlotterowe.com



↓ Wild at Heart

This naturalistic garden designed by Mary Maurel and landscaped by Heimo Schulzer feels like a mini-Kirstenbosch. To get this effect, use local rock and wind a gently snaking water rill through the garden. Be sure to use a variety of different-sized boulders to create dips and troughs over which the water can tumble. Complete the look with an indigenous plant palette.

📍 marymaurelgardens.co.za; 📍 hsgardens.co.za



↑ Classic Revival

This classically inspired water feature, designed by architect Wynand Wilsenach, has been centrally positioned to add focus to a sunken rose garden. Fundamental to this look is the moulding detail on the water feature, level ground and the symmetrical placement of all garden objects and plants. Garden designer Carrie Latimer says: 'The idea was to create a sensory experience.' Similar urns are available from Plaisir du Jardine. 📍 plaisirdujardin.co.za; 📍 carrielatimer.co.za; 📍 w2.co.za

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THE JOY OF GIVING

From the latest foodie gadgets to smart tech products and beautiful homeware, our round-up of the most stylish gifts covers all the bases



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Tech Savvy

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Purposeful technology and beautiful design mean an exceptional smartphone experience that includes embedded wired- and wireless fast-charge capabilities. **R13 999**



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tough on stains and gentle on light fabrics. This ground-breaking top loader saves time and reduces effort by enabling you to complete the entire wash process in one location to make laundry days a breeze. The built-in sink with water jet and a gentle scrubbing board on top of the machine will cut down on your washing time, allowing you to spend time with your family instead. **R9 999**

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PHOTOGRAPH: GREG COX

Cool earth tones and African prints match gilded mirrors and porcelain figurines in homage to an early Cape aesthetic in this Constantia Valley home. *Full story overleaf*



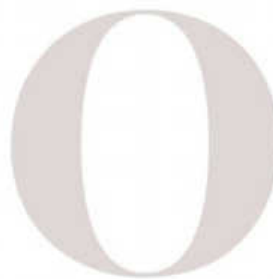
THE SWEET SPOT

FOR SHEILA BOARDMAN, CONSTRUCTING HER DREAM HOME ON THE PICTURESQUE GROUNDS OF A FORMER 19TH-CENTURY HOMESTEAD WAS A LESSON IN PROVENANCE AND PERSEVERANCE

TEXT SHEILA BOARDMAN PRODUCTION SARAH HEINNEMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS GREG COX



The Boardmans' sprawling Cape Dutch-style house overlooks the Soetvlei wetland and a lily-covered dam
OPPOSITE PAGE The high glass doors on the north side of the home offer views of Table Mountain and Constantia Nek



ur lives changed when we moved back to Cape Town after eight years in Joburg, but our beloved old house in Constantia had stayed boringly the same. Spoilt by the space we'd had on the Highveld, we dreamt of moving to a farm, a place to which to retreat and recharge. I imagined landscaping a new garden instead of revamping the

one I'd worked on for nearly 30 years. In essence, we were looking for more light, more space and more air.

Then, entirely by chance, we heard of a piece of land for sale nearby. We fell in love with the property the minute we walked onto it. We'd found three hectares of boggy, muddy land — covered with junk, a mixture of wetland and wasteland — and it was so beautiful that we couldn't imagine ever wanting to live anywhere else. By the next afternoon we'd bought it.

That was the quick part. What followed was gradually working through the great many environmental restrictions that came with the site, each one of which had to be addressed. There were heritage issues, too, as the land was part of the Soetvlei farmyard, on which the original homestead was built in 1811. Sadly, that house has now disappeared and all that's left is a row of oak trees, planted in the early 1800s.

Once through the planning problems, we could finally focus on building. We were lucky to find a brilliant team of people: ➤



Kuba-cloth patchwork
curtains from Central
Africa OPPOSITE
PAGE FROM TOP
Richly textured
terracotta walls are an
unexpected background
to an eclectic mix of
furniture in the sitting
room; an elegant
staircase in the double-
volume entrance hall



Sheila Boardman (pictured) says: 'The idea of a domed pavilion overlooking the wetland was a dream come true for us' OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Large arched windows flood the conservatory with natural light; the kitchen and the conservatory flow into each other; a columned verandah makes a wonderful space for parties



‘We were always **WORKING** towards a **HOUSE** filled with *light and air*, sitting elegantly on such an **ENCHANTING SITE**’ Sheila Boardman

Margie Walsh, the architect with whom I'd worked on many other projects, along with her brother, Michael Dall. Michael introduced us to Chris Marshall, a builder beyond compare, whose team, led by Manie Matthews, worked in the great tradition of Cape craftsmen.

We all agreed that a Cape-style house with white-washed walls and a thatched roof would be best for such a historic site. The neo-classical gables are a reference to what the first Soetvlei would have looked like – it was a similar house to Nova Constantia and Tokai Manor House. The Georgian detailing on the windows and fanlights reflects the changes that swept through Cape architecture after the arrival of the British at the end of the 18th century.

So much careful thought went into every aspect of the design, we were always working towards a house filled with light and air, sitting elegantly on such an enchanting site. Getting the basics of the house right took a lot of time. We'd decided early on that we ▶





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT The main bedroom has been transformed into a flowery bower with wallpaper in an 18th-century Chinese design; a well-balanced table vignette; the master bathroom **OPPOSITE PAGE** The wallpaper complements the delicate furniture

‘We DREAMT of moving to a **FARM**, a place *to which to retreat* and RECHARGE’

wanted a yellowwood floor, using recycled floor or ceiling boards, but even my extensive list of contacts couldn't find any. We had to compromise by choosing the roughest, reject yellowwood we could find.

Even while still empty, the finished rooms were beautiful – the test came when we started filling them with a lifetime's worth of collections, the contents of several previous houses. There was the mountain of Georgian country furniture, as well as the Cape pieces and the French bits all to be fitted in somewhere, somehow. Never would I have thought that the sitting room could absorb two enormous 18th-century dresser bases, as well as a great gilded console table with such ease. I would go on to spend months shuffling furniture from one room to the other, trying to find the perfect place for everything. We're still working on it, of course, and will be for years.

The latest task has been to install the great wall of blue-and-white china in the stairwell, a reminder of the importance of Chinese porcelain in the Cape during the 18th and early 19th centuries. From the day we started working on this site, every spadeful of earth revealed shards of the porcelain that was used at Soetvlei, evidence of all the lives that have been lived here.

Now, once again, Soetvlei has come alive. The yellow-billed ducks are back on the dam, genets, lynxes and porcupines roam the wetland, and here, on the edge of suburbia, we've found that small farm we'd always dreamed of. It's just a little closer to town.

■ **Michael Dall Architects** ☎ 021 797 8102







RETRO RECOLLECTION

A HOMEOWNER WENT ABOUT THE CAREFUL AND PERSONAL RESTORATION OF
THIS 1940S BUNGALOW, WITH THE MOODY ATLANTIC AS ITS MAIN CHARACTER

TEXT AND PRODUCTION PETE BERMEJO PHOTOGRAPHS MONTSE GARRIGA

The mix of second-hand pieces in the sitting room exemplifies the whimsical decor of this bungalow on the Cape Peninsula. The portrait is by Peruvian painter Ramiro Llona
OPPOSITE PAGE The upstairs terrace with a view of the Atlantic Ocean





When it comes to telling the story of the transformation of this simple fisherman's cottage into the treasured holiday retreat it is today, it is always the vast Atlantic Ocean, with its wild moods and powerful beauty, that plays the true protagonist.

The home, a low-key 1940s country lodging, is located almost on the beach in a small, romantically bucolic enclave in the Cape Peninsula.

Much like the azure breakers that crash just outside its windows, upon entering the house one is pulled into a riptide of decorative styles and influences. Rooms are appointed with pieces collected over the years by the owner – most of no impressive provenance but rather the kind of mementos and trinkets one would

encounter in second-hand stores the world over. The final look is something like a 1940s aristo-bungalow, as if the furniture and accessories accumulated have begun to find their intended places, however whimsical the overall effect.

'When I made my first visit to the Cape back in the early 1990s, I drove past this incredible little beach village,' recalls the owner. 'I remember telling the friend I was with that this was exactly the kind of place in which I would love to have



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Two 1930s pigskin bar-stools stand in the small kitchen; a sunburst skylight watches over a small dining set from Vamp. The painting is by Peruvian painter Rafael García Miró and the copper-and-glass pendant is from Mid-Century Modern; the living room contains a mix of pieces from all over the world. The chairs and wooden sidetable are from Ebony and the brass-topped sidetable is from Decologica



a beach house one day. Of course, at the time, I had no idea that I was just months away from starting an incredible journey, and moving to South Africa.'

However, his dream of a quaint, seaside home-away-from-home was still 15 years from being realised as homes of this specific nature are something of a rare find. 'I was very lucky to have this opportunity, as most of the cottages on the beach stay with families for generations, and with good reason,'





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The bedroom with two vintage African Light and Trading lamps; one of the upstairs bathrooms with a metal grid in the shape of a spider's web; the outside terrace OPPOSITE PAGE Two colourful 1950s chairs are positioned to take in the ocean view. Local wood sculptures are paired with a drawing by John Murray (right), and a poster from a Ron Mueck exhibition



he explains. 'It's something you feel like saving for your children and grandchildren. A place where memories are created.'

His is a low-key bungalow, consisting of three en-suite bedrooms and a large, open-plan area with a generous terrace on each floor. The ground-floor bedroom opens onto a well-manicured lawn contained by a stone wall, the only separation from the wild Atlantic below.

'I was so reluctant at first to meddle with it,' the homeowner admits, and it was only

after much persuading by New-York based architect friends that he began making alterations. 'They were down visiting and when they saw the place they were amazed. They said this was what Malibu was like 50 years ago, something you just can't find anymore, so they pleaded and encouraged that I edit with care.'

And that's exactly what he did, only taking out a wall here, inserting a staircase there. 'I think I'm on my fourth round of mini edits,' he says.

'I could see that the bungalow had grown over the years on the basis of the former family's needs and I knew what had to be done. Sometimes it takes somebody new to come in and not see it for what it is, but for what it should become.'

Today he can sit anywhere in the house and watch surfers take on the renowned Crayfish Factory wavebreak. It's loud and smells salty, but he's not complaining.

■ **To rent the bungalow, contact Baki Ucar ☎ 071 312 8383**



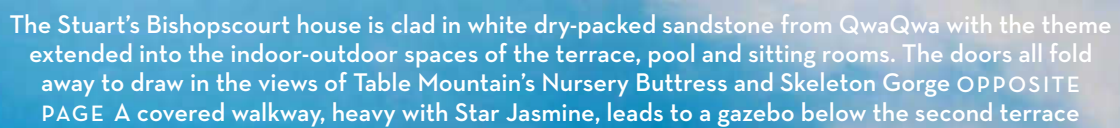
**'UPON ENTERING THE HOUSE ONE IS PULLED INTO
A RIPTIDE OF DECORATIVE STYLES AND INFLUENCES'**



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DEMONSTRATES THAT PERFECTION CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH
A WELL-CONCEIVED PLAN AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL

TEXT KARIEN SLABBERT PRODUCTION HEIDI BERTISH PHOTOGRAPHS ELSA YOUNG



A photograph of a garden path made of light-colored rectangular paving stones. The path is flanked by dense greenery. On the left, there are large, leafy green plants with clusters of bright pink flowers. In the foreground, a metal plant support stands among more pink flowers. On the right, there are more green plants, including some with small orange-red flowers. In the background, a tall, dark green hedge runs along the path, with large, vibrant pink and red flowers (likely roses and bougainvillea) climbing over it. The scene is bright and colorful, with a focus on the various shades of green and pink.

Linking the potager and middle terrace, a cobbled path winds through Louie Stuart's picking garden. Here, deep-pink bougainvillea and Langenhoven Roses add splashes of saturated colour. A profusion of picking flowers, such as alstroemerias, magenta azaleas and hydrangeas, ensure that there are always blooms for the house

P

erfection and order, crafted with great attention to detail and an almost obsessively thorough approach to gardening, is what sets this Bishops court garden apart. The garden at Ballater is an expression of the owners' love of French formal design and an unsurpassed masterclass in structural felicity. But it was not always the case.

Upon purchasing the property in 2001, it had virtually no garden and the house was not what the Stuarts had in mind. But the location was perfect. It presented a blank canvas on which to create a new home and garden with a strong Gallic underpinning. 'We had done a lot of travelling in France and I was very influenced by their architecture, sense of flair and their love of the earth,' says avid gardener Louie Stuart.

Johannesburg-based architect Philip Watermeyer was appointed to design the new house. The formal nature of the garden is an extension of the structurally organised architectural blueprint: The design is all about symmetry, texture and shape, while the various statues, pergolas and pots are used to accentuate the architectural features of the property.

Initially, architect Dominic Touwen was asked to flesh out details of the terraces and pergolas, while landscape designer Franchesca Watson helped with plant selection and garden finishes. Over the years, the garden has evolved into far less varieties of plants with a greater emphasis on texture.

The garden's spaces have their own dynamic order. Each garden room epitomises the concept of contained abundance, and a muted colour palette ensures that the primary focus is on the garden's geometric precision, linear order and structural strength.

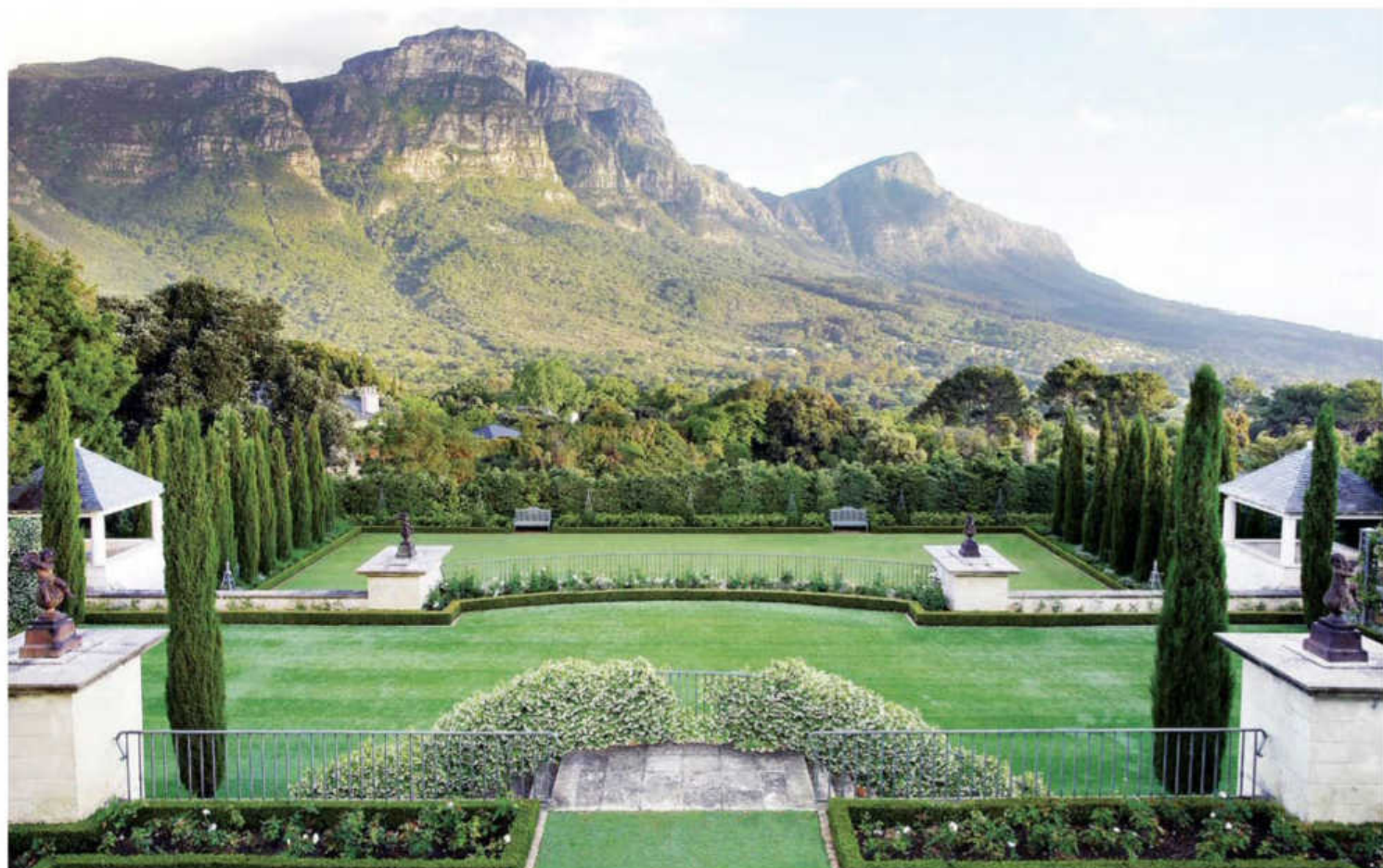
To the north, three terraces, each supported by its own retaining wall, recede to reveal sweeping vistas of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden and Table Mountain. The view of the mountain dominates the front garden, which has been kept simple to showcase the main event.

The lower terrace of the garden, designed by Louie, was added a couple of years later. This is essentially a croquet lawn book-ended by cypress-lined reflective pools. The whole area is enclosed by a yellowwood hedge, which will be around long after Jan van Riebeeck's Wild Almond hedge at Kirstenbosch has disappeared.

To the west of the house lies the meditation court with its waterlily-clad koi ponds. Pollarded White Stinkwoods shade this area and all the plants enveloping the pond are white. The breakfast room on the eastern side of the house looks out on a garden room filled with deep-pink camellias and crimson-coloured gaura, juxtaposed against a wall of *Trachelospermum jasminoides*. Adjacent to this, the potager features raised herb beds and bay trees.

Maintaining a perfectly manicured garden is no small feat and one would expect it would require the extensive use of pesticides. However, organic principles are followed in the garden, which ensures that birds, butterflies and insects abound. Lawn consultant Mark Rist maintains the lawns and ensures that they are perfectly manicured. Sarchen Morris of Natural Gardening Principles has played a key role in improving the soil quality, while gardener Sidwell Ndiye makes sure that the plethora of hedges are always manicured to a tee.

'My garden is a never-ending source of joy to all of us,' says Louie of this trompe l'oeil. *Tres magnifique!* ▶



Structural Appeal

Round off your garden with bespoke garden elements from Louie Stuart's little black book of suppliers.

Ornate elements punctuate this garden's clean-lined proportions and linear design.

Pergolas and obelisks

The larger structures in the garden, such as the jasmine-festooned pergolas and rose-covered obelisks, were designed by architect and landscape designer Dominic Touwen and custom-made by Prokon, an engineering firm.

Statues and urns

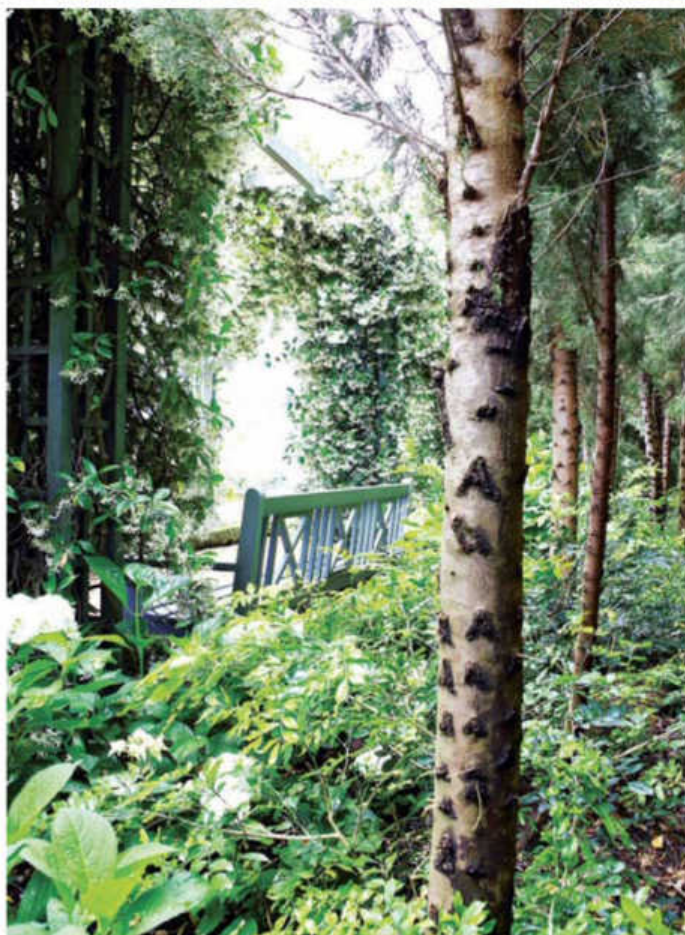
The Italianate statues and urns were cherry-picked from antique stores Farriers Centre and Block & Chisel. Simon Rawlinson of Iron Stone made the smaller obelisks, rose supports and pot stands.

Pots

The Potter's Gallery in Kleinmond made all the orangerie pots. *For stockists' details, see page 158*

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Langenhoven Roses cascade over wrought-iron supports; espaliered *Grewia occidentalis* mask a terrace wall; a sweeping view from the orangerie across a manicured lawn **OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP** Neatly clipped hedges, laterite pathways, a copse of cypresses and pergolas are all designed to frame the view of the mountain; pink alstroemerias in the picking garden





Hedge Funds

Louie Stuart reveals her trade secrets on how to ensure and maintain perfect hedges.

'Our full-time gardener Sidwell Ndiye has developed a talent for trimming the endless hedges on this property. Originally, he had to sink pegs and stretch string between them to guide the hedge trimmer. Over the years, though, he has honed his talent and now does it by sight.'

'Initially, hedges need to be kept low, so that they can bush out sideways. Only then can

one allow them to gain in height. Most of the hedges in the garden are *Buxus sempervirens*. They are greedy feeders and need constant foliar feeding, as well as composting twice a year. They need little trimming during winter, but require manicuring every three weeks in summertime.'

'Sidwell also trims all the conifers into candle shapes.' ■

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT White SunPatients offset the perfectly manicured box hedges; *Convolvulus sabatius*; trimmed cypresses **OPPOSITE PAGE** The swimming pool is positioned on the upper terrace as an extension of the terrace room

*'The garden design is all about symmetry,
texture and shape, while the various
statues, pergolas and pots accentuate the
architectural features'*



Pure and Simple

THIS FAMILY HOME IN THE HEART OF HYDE PARK, JOHANNESBURG, CELEBRATES A MIX OF CLASSIC ITALIAN CRAFT AND FORWARD-THINKING DESIGN FOR A LUXURY AESTHETIC THAT WORKS

TEXT AND PRODUCTION KELLY ADAMI
PHOTOGRAPHS ELSA YOUNG





Sitting on the patio looking out onto a lush green garden, you would never say this secluded family home was set in the middle of the bustling suburb of Hyde Park, Johannesburg. Once inside, it becomes clear that the ethos of a soothing escape from big-city life has been carried through to the interior and expressed in the form of curated Italian design.

'The end result is one of unbelievable comfort in a space that encompasses a sense of wellbeing,' says Julia Day, interior designer and owner of Hyde Park design store Generation, who loves collaborating

with clients to create beautiful spaces for easy living. In this case, it was the owners' appreciation of good design that made the partnership an easy one.

'We had an understanding that luxury is about a layering of textures and beautiful forms and agreed that the focus should be on simplicity, rather than overcrowding the spaces,' explains Julia.

This is perhaps best illustrated in the treatment of the entrance hall, where two 'Tondo' armchairs flank the eye-catching 'Vidun' table, both by De Padova. 'The

shape of the "Tondo" is a contemporary interpretation of the classic wingback chair and we've used some of Seletti's most eye-catching functional art on the table,' says Julia. 'The combination of these elements creates a beautiful sense of welcome.'

The clean, simple aesthetic of the furniture has been juxtaposed with the intricate designs of the Fornasetti wallpaper collection, used throughout the home, which the owner sourced on her travels to London. Another strong Italian design brand, Fornasetti's playful

ABOVE FROM LEFT In the family room, a pair of 'Palestro' sofas, designed by Vico Magistretti for De Padova, are combined with a geometric rug by Mae Artisan Rugs; the formal shape of the '606' unit by Dieter Rams stands out against the delicate pattern of the Fornasetti wallpaper **OPPOSITE PAGE** A dramatic spiral staircase makes a sculptural statement in the entrance hall



**'THE END RESULT IS ONE OF UNBELIEVABLE
COMFORT IN A SPACE THAT ENCOMPASSES
A SENSE OF WELLBEING'** JULIA DAY



The formal lounge makes use of a muted palette and layered textures for a sumptuous, yet understated, aesthetic. The scheme is anchored by black accents, such as the standing lamps by Lampe Gras



Pendants from
Glo Lighting & Living
gives definition to
the dining area,
which is brought to
life with metallic
details. Bronze
Machine Collection
candlesticks by Diesel
Living are mixed in
with Seletti's 'Bugia'
and 'Lanterna' candle
holders, creating a
glamorous atmosphere



approach adds a whimsical dimension to the spaces. In the welcome area, for example, the '606' shelving unit by Dieter Rams is set against a backdrop of one of Fornasetti's most popular wallpaper motifs, the 'Chiavi Segrete', for a unique synergy of aesthetics.

The theme of balancing elements of old and new – in part prompted by the contemporary-classic style of the architecture, originally designed by Krynauw Nel – is evident here, too. 'We turned the idea of a traditional bar on its head by mounting it on the wall,' says Julia. Of all the rooms in the home, the husband loves this room the most: 'I'm very proud of our welcome area, it's a great space for entertaining,' he says.

Julia took a similar approach in the living room in which two of De Padova's 'Chat' sofas, upholstered in a matt woven linen, are

combined with two 'Albereta' armchairs. 'Even though the "Alberetas" were only released this year, they are reminiscent of a classic shape,' says Julia. 'We completed the look with a very beautiful traditional piece – the "Pouf Capitonné" – to ground the whole scheme.'

Pulling the various schemes together is always a significant part of Generation's design process. 'We selected meaningful objects d'art – pieces that were more than just decorative to the client – and curated stories for an overall look,' says Julia. 'For

example, the owners' collection of art-deco glassware is displayed alongside Seletti's Diesel Living Machine Collection glasses. The tension between clean and ornate, old and new, is what makes for interesting design stories.'

Steadied by a backbone of original design, the interior has achieved a light and timeless aesthetic. 'For us, it's a combination of all the things we love, which makes living in the home a really easy, special and uplifting experience,' says the wife. ■ **Generation**
generationdesign.co.za

ABOVE FROM LEFT The simple lines of the De Padova 'Tani Moto' bookshelf makes it a timeless collector's item. It works well as a focal point in the formal lounge, which leads onto the dining room; the 'Dan' coffee table by the same brand brings a sense of Scandinavian simplicity to the luxurious patio area, overlooking the lush green garden beyond



all the world's a stage

A FUSION OF THE DRAMATIC
AND AVANT-GARDE IS A
VICTORY OF IMAGINATION
OVER CONVENTION
IN DESIGNER HUBERT
ZANDBERG'S HANDS

TEXT PIET SMEDY
PHOTOGRAPHS NICOLAS MATHEUS



The sitting room forms the focal point of the space. The printed velvet cushions are from Sabina Fay Braxton and the wall-mounted sculpture is by Curtis Jere.



‘Experiment, really, is the operative word here,’ says interior designer Hubert Zandberg of this tiny (it’s barely 50 square

metres) apartment on Rue Balzac, near the Arc de Triomphe, in Paris. But what it lacks in space, it more than makes up for in sheer wow factor, inducing nothing short of a paroxysm of awe (or, perhaps, vertigo) the moment you step through its doors.

‘What the client didn’t want was a conventionally chic, French apartment,’ Hubert explains of the interiors, in which rococo shapes meet contemporary finishes, completed with lashings of Oriental prints, taxidermy and a profusion of flowers for good measure. Eschewing a French sensibility that, as Hubert calls it, can at times be ‘safe, a bit too tastefully restrained’, he opted to go all-out Hollywood. ‘It is, more accurately, a Francophile take on Hollywood,’ he laughs. ‘It really speaks to that Gallic ability to embrace madness in design – there’s just this willingness to accept severe juxtaposition. So, if something is to be exciting it must break into the avant-garde.’



‘It is in this bijoux moment that you can live your life as if on the stage’ *Hubert Zandberg*

ABOVE FROM TOP Most of the objects d’art that adorn the sitting room are flea-market finds; the entrance hall doubles as the kitchen and is fitted with a minibar. The ‘Happy Happy Bow’ sculpture is by Stephen Johnson
OPPOSITE PAGE Bright velvet curtains screen the sitting room from the bedroom

This apartment is another collaboration between Hubert and the homeowner, having worked together on a small pied-à-terre in the Le Marais district (‘Small Wonder’, *H&G* June 2015), and once again the project is ‘a complete reconfiguration in terms of the layout’, says Hubert, explaining that the purpose of the flat had to be entirely transformed. ‘This was about making a space that was practical for guests who would be staying for the weekend.’

The space was directly influenced by its close proximity to the Champs-Élysées, with its heaving mass of restaurants and clubs. ‘We wanted the sitting area to become the focal point, where you could have a meeting or receive friends.’





The kitchen and entrance were thus combined as the space became less important, although it's still fully functional. The area between the reception room and bedroom was also opened, introducing softness and theatricality, but, like the kitchen, it can be easily hidden with a draw of the velvet curtains.

'There is a beautiful word in French: *ensemblier*,' says Hubert. 'It refers to a person who can not only put objects together, but, through their arrangement, these objects become more than the sum of their parts. That was what this little apartment was all about.'

A habitué of Paris' markets, Hubert's hunter-gatherer approach saw decorating take on something of a reversed logic, where the pieces he collected informed the decor style. 'It's like someone giving you all the ingredients and you need to make a dish from them,' he says. 'We needed to find interesting ways of using our ingredients, ways in which they wouldn't normally be used.' In so doing, Hubert succeeded in rewriting the context of these objects, divorcing them from their historical associations and recasting them in the roles they would play in the setting.

Inspired by his client's American wife, Hubert drew on the kaleidoscopic



'After all, if you can't do a folly in Paris, then where can you do it?'

influence of film and stage artist Tony Duquette – 'this apartment is basically our homage to him' – whose aesthetic informed Hubert's stylistic choices. 'We're giving centre stage to flamboyance, and if you're flamboyant enough eventually people believe it. If you do it without bravery, people will question it but, like the best entertainers, this apartment had to do it with complete conviction. "It's never done till it's overdone" has never been truer,' he says.

It's in this extravagant folly ('after all, if you can't do a folly in Paris, then where can you do it?') that life and theatre collide in spectacular fashion. 'It is in this bijoux moment, created with a sense of escapism and just a little madness, that you can live your life as if on a stage.' ■

FROM TOP Oriental and botanical elements decorate the bathroom. The Cloisonné and glazed ceramic pots are by HZI; the space is separated from the bedroom by a small storage unit **OPPOSITE PAGE** A gold sunburst mirror presides over the bedroom. Hubert designed both the bed and mirror. The mohair rug is by Coral Stephens



trade secrets

Products and tips to help you get the looks showcased in this issue



THE WALL FINISH

Greg Pullen painted the interior walls in a special finish that has the look of a fine canvas weave, adding a textured effect to the surface. ■ Greg Pullen ☎ 076 272 4305



PAGES 78-85

CLASSIC FURNITURE

Take inspiration from the mix of antique Georgian, Cape and French furniture and collectables in this home.



FIND A SIMILAR REGENCY-STYLE MIRROR AT GRIFFITHS & GRIFFITHS.



BEDROOM FLORALS

The soft palette of creams and whites, and the delicate floral motif on the wallpaper, gives the bedroom a romantic quality.

FROM TOP RIGHT: ZOFFANY GUSTAVUS 'ELEONORA' WALLPAPER, R2 001.84 PER ROLL, ST LEGER & VINEY; BOOTI DESIGN CUSHION COVER IN BLUE/BEIGE, AND FLORAL DESIGN CUSHION COVER IN BLUE/WHITE, BOTH R135, HARRIDANS



KUBA CURTAINS

The drapes made by Joanna's Curtains, from printed fabric from the Pan African Market, are an unexpected fixture in the stately home.



HANDMADE KUBA CLOTHS, FROM R775 EACH, AMATULI ARTEFACTS

RELAXED RETRO

The mid-century pieces add a personal touch to the bungalow, while also serving as reminders of the owner's travels.



FROM TOP RIGHT: 'SULLIVAN' SIDETABLE WITH OAK-OILED BASE AND DUCO TOP, R2 884, MEZZANINE; FRYSTARK STATUS RANGE 'MID-CENTURY SAPELE' SIDEBORD, R6 895, VAMP



WALL CLADDING

Keep a building's existing exterior to preserve its original character, or cover a new build in cladding to create a rustic feature.



SEA TONES

The blend of deep blues and lighter turquoise shades speaks to the home's seaside location. Display a mix of blue ceramics in your kitchen and paint small accent features, such as ceiling beams, in ocean colours to recreate this effect.

ABOVE FROM TOP LEFT: STONEWARE JUG IN MARSEILLE, R270, LE CREUSET; DULUX 'CELESTIAL BLUE 4' PAINT, R359 PER 5 LITRES, AND PLASCON 'BETHANY GREEN' PAINT, R375 PER 5 LITRES, BOTH BUILDERS WAREHOUSE



TEXTURE PLAY

Add warmth and colour to your space with bright, patterned textiles and different textures, such as a cow-hide rug.

FROM TOP LEFT: GRAYPANTS 'SUN' PENDANT, R35 603, GLO LIGHTING & LIVING; 'BOWLS' CUSHION COVER IN PERSIMMON, FROM R345, SKINNY LAMINX; NGUNI-SKIN RUG, FROM R2 622, AFRITAN





PAGES 100-105

BOLD LIGHTING

Oversized metal pendant lights create a contrast with the relaxed and softened colour scheme, illustrating how fittings can make a statement but still blend in with the overall look.

FROM TOP LEFT: TROY LIGHTING FLATIRON 'F2511W' IRON PENDANT, FROM R34 572; AND CYAN DESIGN WOOD AND IRON 'AUBURN 04450' PENDANT, FROM R27 342, BOTH GLO LIGHTING & LIVING

SUBTLE TONES

A neutral palette, from milky hues to sandy browns, has been used throughout the home. Graphic elements, such as a patterned rug, liven up the simple colour scheme.

FROM TOP RIGHT: DIESEL LIVING WITH SELETTI MACHINE COLLECTION SALAD BOWL, R2 160, GENERATION; 'CUBES' CONTEMPORARY KELIM WITH GEOMETRIC DESIGN, R10 870, MAE ARTISAN RUGS



ILLUSTRATED WALLPAPER

Add a playful touch to your interior with the Fornasetti II 'Macchine Volanti' wallpaper, R6 092 for a set of two rolls, and 'Chiavi Segrete' wallpaper, R2 374 per roll, from St Leger & Viney.



SCULPTURAL CHAIRS

Choose classic designs with modern twists such as exaggerated curves to contrast with linear pieces.



1. ANTONIO CITTERIO VITRA 'GRAND REPOS' CHAIR, FROM R72 750, CUBE GALLERY
2. 'AAC12' CHAIR WITH BLACK WOOD FRAME, R4 400, LA GRANGE INTERIORS
3. PHILIPPE NIGRO DE PADOVA 'ALBERETA' ARMCHAIR, PRICE ON APPLICATION, GENERATION



PAGES 106-111



OPULENT TEXTILES

Rich, gem-coloured fabrics such as jacquard silks or velvets add textural depth and luxury to the lounge.

FROM TOP: IAN SANDERSON PIK & MIX/ OLEANDER COLLECTION 'HEXA' FABRIC IN STONE, R1 458 PER METRE; JIM THOMPSON TONY DUQUETTE 'OCTAVIAN 3331/02' AND 'OCTAVIAN 3331/03' FABRIC, BOTH R1 161.88 PER METRE, ALL T & CO



ORGANIC OBJECTS

The collection of ornaments, found by designer Hubert Zandberg on his travels, draws inspiration from a mixture of oceanic and natural elements.

FROM LEFT: RESORT BAHIA 'CAPIZ WREATH' SHELL ON JUTE STAND, R1 450, RESORT LIFESTYLE; FIND SIMILAR CRYSTALS FROM AFROGEM

HOLLYWOOD GLAM

Touches of gold in the furniture and accessories contribute to the apartment's dramatic yet sophisticated look.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: 'STRIP' SIDETABLE, R15 995, WEYLANDTS; LEOPARD PRINT CUSHION, FROM R890, CLASSIC REVIVALS; ESSENTIALS 'MIRANDA' GOLD-PLATED TABLE LAMP, PRICE ON APPLICATION, PROVINCE LIGHTING



MIRRORED ELEMENTS

To create the illusion of space in a small room, use mirrored surfaces to reflect light and movement. In a sumptuously decorated atmosphere, this lends a sense of theatricality.

BELOW: TALL 'ALICE' PANEL MIRROR, R7 999, LA GRANGE INTERIORS For stockists' details, see page 158



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VINE DINING

There's a new wave of estate restaurants in the Cape Winelands that are ditching stuffy menus and wine snobbery for bold flavours and smart pairings

01

PERFECT
MATCH

Conjuring up thought-provoking food-and-wine pairings is **Creation Wine**'s trademark, from a sophisticated brunch to a new eight-course tapas pairing. Sublime combinations, such as the Syrah with pork dumplings and umami broth, are a feast for the senses.

■ Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge ☎ 028 212 1107; 🌐 creationwines.com



02

HOT PLATES

Cutting-edge restaurants are rarely attached to hotels, but **Greenhouse** is the exception to the rule. Sleek new interiors provide an intimate, date-night backdrop to Peter Tempelhoff's technically precise yet imaginative and playful menus.

■ **Cellars-Hobenort Hotel**

☎ 021 795 6226;

📍 greenhouse-restaurant.co.za

03

GROW YOUR GARDEN

The focus on the plate at the new-look, bigger **Babel** is always inspired by whatever is plucked, picked and harvested from the eight-hectare fruit, vegetable and herb garden that is at the heart of this historic wine farm. Stop by the new glass-cube tasting centre to sample the estate's just-launched bubbly. ■ **Babylonstoren Farm**
☎ 021 863 3852; 📍 babylonstoren.com

Dark Chocolate Terrine of Black Olives and Toasted Walnuts with Espresso



SERVES 10

For the cake

250g white chocolate

200g soft butter

160g eggs

210g castor sugar

100g flour, sifted

For the dark chocolate and walnut ganache or white chocolate and olive ganache

250g dark or white chocolate

125g unsalted butter

60g cream

200g toasted walnuts or

200g pitted black olives

For the dark chocolate

175g chocolate

110g unsalted butter



04

PARED-DOWN PAIRINGS

A far cry from fine dining, **Rust en Vrede**'s winemakers lunch – a simple choice of steak or salmon, paired with Syrah or Steen respectively – served under the oaks or in the stylishly updated wine tasting centre, is Stellenbosch's best-kept secret.

■ **Rust en Vrede** ☎ 021 881 3881; 📍 rustenvrede.com

4 egg yolks
2 egg whites
15ml sugar
150ml icing sugar
40ml cocoa powder
70ml double cream

3. Allow to cool and spread dark chocolate ganache over cake layer, then white chocolate ganache over dark chocolate and place tin back in freezer.

For the dark chocolate

1. Melt chocolate and unsalted butter, combine and remove from heat.

2. Whisk in egg yolks.

3. In a separate bowl whisk 2 egg whites and sugar.

4. Fold into egg mixture and dust in icing sugar and cocoa powder.

5. Add double cream. 6. Spread over white chocolate, cover with clingwrap and place in freezer. 7. To serve, remove terrine from tin. Use a warm knife to cut thin slices. Allow to thaw before serving topped with toasted walnuts and a shot of espresso. ▶

For the cake

1. In a double boiler melt the white chocolate then remove from heat. 2. Whisk butter into the chocolate. 3. Cream eggs and castor sugar, add chocolate mixture. 4. Fold in flour. 5. Spread on a baking tray lined with greased paper and bake for 10 minutes at 180°C. 6. Allow to cool. 7. Line a bread tin with clingwrap and cut the cake to fit the base of the tin. Place in freezer.

For the chocolate ganaches

1. Melt dark or white chocolate and unsalted butter, combine and remove from heat. 2. Add cream and walnuts or olives.

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05 VIEW WITH A ROOM

Stripped back and pared down, **Tokara Restaurant** has been transformed, its modern makeover now featuring bare cement floors, unadorned wooden tables, Haldane Martin chairs and a revolving collection of contemporary artworks. The glorious views over the wine estate have been brought sharply into focus, while chef Richard Carstens' new summer dishes reflect his passion for self-sustainable, edible gardening.

▪ **Tokara Restaurant** ☎ 021 885 2550;
📍 tokararestaurant.co.za



06

DOUBLE DATING

The heritage-listed **Constantia Nek Restaurant** has been brought right up to date with the side-by-side opening of **Harbour House** and **La Parada**. The rustic site's thatch-and-stone charm and views over Constantia's vineyards remain intact, but now there's crowd-pleasing food – authentic tapas, seafood and steaks – to match.

▪ **Constantia Nek**
📍 constantianek.co.za



07 HUNTER GATHERER

The charred, smoky flavours of ash-baked savoy cabbage, sweet peppers and onions, and edible plants and wild herbs, foraged by chef Eric Bulpitt, are the humble heroes of boundary-pushing dishes that celebrate the Overberg's seasonal bounty and complement the estate's excellent cool-climate wines at **The Restaurant at Newton Johnson**.

▪ **Newton Johnson Family Vineyards** ☎ 021 200 2148;
📍 newtonjohnson.com



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EATING OUT



08

FARM FEASTS

Lunch in the country has been redefined by the fresh, seasonally driven three-course feast at **The Table at De Meye**. A typical summer menu includes fresh salads, pâtés and breads, pasture-raised beef fillet, salsa verde and beetroot tarte tatin, rounded off perfectly with frozen-milk-and-honey semifreddo with fresh figs. ■ **De Meye Estate** ☎ 072 696 0530; 📍 thetablerestaurant.co.za

Strawberry Semifreddo with Rhubarb Compote

SERVES 6

For the semifreddo

500g strawberries, trimmed and cut in half
220g castor sugar
2 egg yolks
30g honey
250ml whipping cream

For the compote

250ml water
250ml white wine
100g sugar
100g honey
5 slices fresh ginger
500g rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 4cm batons
500g strawberries, trimmed and halved (if small, leave whole)

For the semifreddo

1. In a saucepan, simmer the strawberries and 200g of castor sugar until reduced by half,

then blend into a thick purée. 2. Whisk the egg yolks, honey and remaining castor sugar in a bowl over a pot of simmering water, until light and fluffy. 3. Fold in purée. 4. Whip the cream into soft peaks, and fold into the strawberry mixture. 5. Line a small bread tin with baking paper and pour in mixture. Cover with clingwrap and place in the freezer for 4 hours.

For the compote

1. In a saucepan, heat water, wine, sugar, honey and ginger. 2. Once the sugar is dissolved and the syrup is simmering, add the rhubarb and lower the heat to poach the rhubarb until just softened, 5 minutes. 3. Remove from heat and add strawberries. 4. When cool, remove the ginger. 5. To serve, slice semifreddo and serve with compote.

09

REAL SIMPLE

Giorgio Nava's popular Italian restaurant in Cape Town now has a wine-country cousin with the opening of **95 at Morgenster**. The superior wines and olive oils from Giulio Bertrand's exclusive estate are the perfect foil for simple Italian classics – food that is unadulterated, seasonal and utterly fresh.

■ **Morgenster Estate**
☎ 021 204 7048;
📍 95atmorgenster.com



overlooking a hardworking kitchen garden, is the place to enjoy farm-to-fork guru Christiaan Campbell's wholesome 'dishes for two', such as braised Angus beef short rib with bacon jam, home-made pickled mustard and pickled Eugenia berries. ■ **Boschendal Farm**

☎ 021 870 4272/3/4/5; 📍 boschendal.co.za

10

FARM TO FORK

Fresh, earthy sophistication – think hand-painted tiles by Spanish interior decorator Lázaro Rosa-Violán and locally crafted artisanal furniture – epitomises **The Werf Restaurant**, housed in Boschendal's original wine cellar. A table on the oak-shaded terrace,



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Gran Menzione - L'Orciolo d'Oro, Italy - 2015
Bronze - LA International EVOO Competition, USA - 2015
1st Place - Sol d'Oro, Chile - 2014
Gran Prestige Gold - Terra Olivo, Israel - 2014
Gran Menzione - L'Orciolo d'Oro, Italy - 2014
Silver - SA Olive Awards - 2014

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94% - Flos Olei, Italy - 2015
#33 - World Ranking EVOO - 2014

Estate Blend

Gran Prestige Gold - Olivinus, Argentina - 2015
Gran Menzione - L'Orciolo d'Oro, Italy - 2015
Silver - SA Olive Awards - 2015
1st Place - L'Orciolo d'Oro, Italy - 2014
Winner - ABSA Top 5, South Africa - 2014
Gold - SA Olive Awards - 2014
Winner - Fairlady Consumer Awards - 2014

Nuy Valley

Silver - SA Olive Awards - 2015
Silver - SA Olive Awards - 2014

Flavoured - 2015

Lemon
Best of Show: LA International EVOO Competition, USA
Gold - LA International EVOO Competition, USA
Prestige Gold: Olivinus, Argentina
Coriander
Gold - Olivinus, Argentina
Bronze - LA International EVOO Competition, USA
Jalapeno
Gold - LA International EVOO Competition, USA
Garlic
Silver - LA International EVOO Competition, USA
Parmesan
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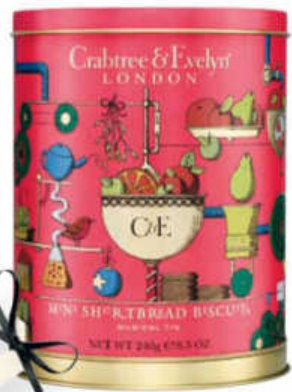
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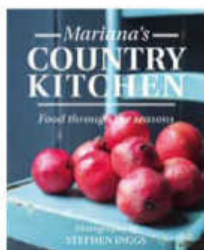
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Cook the Books

In **The Supper Club** (Random House Struik) acclaimed South African chef Phillippa Cheifitz shares her entertaining secrets with 90 easy-to-follow recipes, R308. All cookbooks available from Exclusive Books 📞 exclusives.co.za



Brighten up your summer menus with **Citrus: Sweet and Savory Sun-Kissed Recipes's** (Penguin Random House) fresh take on baking and cooking, R298.



The culinary secrets of Stanford's famous Marianas restaurant are shared in **Mariana's Country Kitchen** (Human & Rousseau), R350.



Simply Nigella (Random House Struik) is the ideal holiday companion, filled with feel-good recipes perfect for relaxed summer dining, R569.

Table Talk

The playful and casual offspring of the popular Cube Tasting Kitchen, Workshop 55 is taking centre stage on the Johannesburg food scene. 📞 011 442 6252



BOTTLE SERVICE

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DECEMBER DIARY

'Tis the season to be jolly, starting with our calendar of festive events



3 Montecasino Christmas Village is a one-stop shop for Christmas shopping. 📞 011 510 7000

5 Toast the end of the year at the Franschoek Cap Classique and Champagne Festival at the Huguenot Monument. 📞 franschhoekmcc.co.za

11 Fresh country fare and artisanal products can be found at Gabrielskloof's annual Our Favourite Things Market. 📞 028 284 9865

15 Sip on carefully selected wine and get in high spirits at the Wine Not Pop-up Bar in Kramerville. 📞 info@levelethree.co.za

25 The finest Christmas lunch is a six-course affair taking place at Grande Provence. 📞 021 876 8600

31 Ring in the New Year at the Oyster Box, with a six-course reinterpretation of the last dinner on the Titanic. 📞 031 514 5000

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BIG SKY COUNTRY

Follow the empty plains and open roads that lead to the Little Karoo, an expanse scattered with artsy folk that offers the closest safari to Cape Town

TEXT CHARLOTTE SINCLAIR PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID CROOKES



Mo & Rose, a small hotel
set in a garden of giant
cacti in the Robertson
Wine Valley OPPOSITE
PAGE The Swartberg
Pass is a scenic mountain
road that winds between
Oudtshoorn and
Prince Albert





L

very big city needs a country retreat. East of Cape Town, the Little Karoo is a 290km strip of semi-desert that trims the edge of the vast wilderness of the Great Karoo. Wedged between the Swartberg Mountain Range to the north and the Langeberge to the south, the region is home to dust-bowl towns, river-threaded valleys, dramatic mountain passes and mile upon mile of empty veld.

The area's off-the-map allure has worked its magic on the creative city dwellers who have trickled there, seeking beauty, space and peace, to set up home in the gabled Dutch houses, converting farmsteads into galleries, establishing imaginative restaurants, and creating gem-like guesthouses and rentable homes.

Route 62 rises and falls through the Little Karoo's hills and valleys like a cardiogram. From Cape Town, it dips into the attractive spa town of Montagu, with its cottage gardens, fruit farms and tea shops. (Venturing into the Little Karoo often feels like time travel, as if its

inhabitants were trying to counteract the duress of their environment by way of fine china and Victoria sponge.)

This is the Robertson Wine Valley, an area as famous as Stellenbosch for the quality of its terroir. My first stop is Mo & Rose, a small hotel set in a garden of giant cacti, run by a young German-Italian couple, Axel Daniel and Monika Schmalzl. Tin-roofed outbuildings contain eight rooms with a Scandi-African feel: beds are pale-wood four-posters, walls are whitewashed, floors are polished plaster.

The star here is the bistro in the 1910 barn, where tables are set inside a glass-

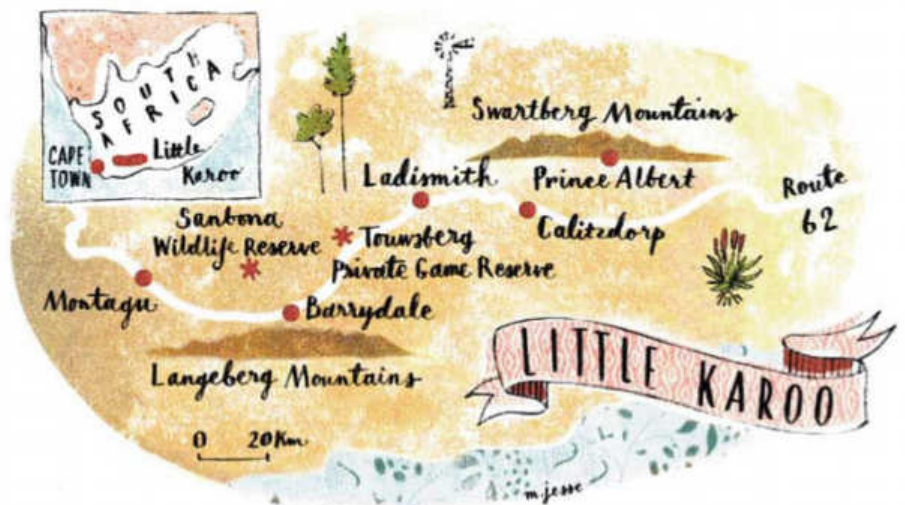
A farm road RIGHT
A stylish, French-
inspired bedroom
at Boesmanskop
guesthouse in the
Kruisrivier Valley



‘The region is HOME to dust-bowl
TOWNS, river-threaded **VALLEYS**,
dramatic *mountain passes* and mile
upon mile of **EMPTY VELD**’

box extension. Axel talks guests through the menu – pecan-nut soufflé with onion butter, Karoo-style ravioli with lamb and feta – and recommends wines from local boutique vineyards including Kleinhoekloof and Arendsig: unfamiliar names but staggeringly delicious wines.

My next stop is Barrydale, a country dorp of scruffy charm, as epitomised by lunch at Diesel and Crème, a roadside diner serving burgers in a junkyard aesthetic of neon signage and rusting petrol pumps. The word ‘kooky’ frequently pops up in conversation about Barrydale, but art plays a meaningful role here. ▶





At the showroom of design studio Magpie Art Collective, rococo chandeliers are fashioned from bottle tops and coloured plastic sourced from rubbish dumps. In the Little Karoo, making a virtue of limitation is an art form.

At Touwsberg, a private game and nature reserve near Ladismith, where a fortunate few have made weekend and holiday homes, I startle a pair of ostriches as I bump along the track to Stoney Cottage. This solar-powered, four-bedroom retreat – the creation of Lynn and Sibley McAdam, owners of Cape Town interiors store Block & Chisel – sits above a stream in the crease of a steep valley. The furnishings are a stylish Provençal-Karoo mashup: pillowy beds, kilims, antique dressers and sun-bleached animal bones.

Clad in stone, the house blends in with the mountains and surrounding bush, a protected wilderness in which guests can hike and bike, swim in rivers and even game watch, as zebras, kudus and giraffes roam the reserve. As the sun

‘Beyond the BOUNDARIES of the TOWN, the wilderness *reasserts* itself into empty *plains* and monumental HILLS’



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
A farm stall; Diesel and Crème
is a rustic roadside diner in
Barrydale; an outdoor bath
at Stoney Cottage in Touwsberg
Private Game and Nature
Reserve off the R62



slides behind the Wolwefontein peaks, I watch a red hartebeest pad down the hill to drink in the stream. The only sound is running water and the wind in the treetops.

The dusty town of Calitzdorp is, on first glance, not much to look at. But in the back streets I discover gallery cafés and spruce wineries such as Calitzdorp Wine Cellar and port-makers Boplaas. And Cape Town potter Clementina van der Walt's Kraaldoring Gallery, where her nature-inspired vases are exhibited, is a good reason to get into the surrounding countryside. It seems that a way with clay is endemic here — internationally lauded ceramicist Hylton Nel is a long-time Calitzdorp resident. His playful, painted plates hang on the dining room wall at Boesmanskop, a three-bedroom guesthouse run by Tinie Bekker. Boesmanskop dates from the 1750s ▶

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when Tinie's forefathers established a farm in the fertile Kruisrivier Valley. The family still rears dairy cows and ostriches, but the house has an antique elegance that belies its rustic purpose. My bedroom has a distinctly French feel with its faded Persian rug and wingback chairs.



'The word Karoo is derived from the San for dry and hard,' Tinie reminds me. This comes to mind when I drive along the Swartberg Pass to Prince Albert. The 27km mountain road is a series of endless switchbacks carved through a crown of peaks that drops into a steep-sided, sandstone riverbed, ending at the manicured frontier town of Prince Albert at the edge of the Great Karoo.

Prince Albert Country Stay is attached to a café and antiques store, where charming rooms are furnished with brass bedsteads and rose-print cushions. 'It takes time for people to understand what Prince Albert is all about,' says owner Colleen Penfold. There's certainly something alternative about this 250-year-old town where galleries outnumber farm shops.

What is it about artists and the Little Karoo? Jackie Burger, former editor of *Elle* South Africa and a Prince Albert homeowner, credits the 'painterly skies at

dawn and dusk, the stars bright against an expansive night sky'.

At sunrise the next morning I climb the koppie behind the town. Shafts of dawn light creep over the Swartberge, falling on Prince Albert's fig farms and olive groves, the tin cottage roofs and the proud silhouette of the church bell tower. Beyond the boundaries of the town, the wilderness reasserts itself into empty plains and monumental hills: an equation of space to sky that invites existential shivers. It's a scene emblematic of the Little Karoo, a pioneer place of true grit and hard living, counteracted by havens of verdant beauty. I watch until the light coalesces into brightness, and then I walk down for breakfast, my edges gathered safely in.

- **Boesmanskop and Stoney Cottage**  perfecthideaways.co.za
- **Mo & Rose**  moandrose.co.za
- **Prince Albert Country Stay**  princealbertcountrystay.com

A labourer's
lonely house on
an arid plain

'In the Little KAROO, making
a **VIRTUE** of **LIMITATION**
is an *art form*'





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FROM LEFT: SIEMENS 'iQ 700' **FRIDGE AND FREEZER**, R20 399, TAFELBERG FURNISHERS; LIEBHERR PREMIUM BEVERAGE **COOLER**, R17 000, DIONWIRED



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GENERATION 6000 INTEGRATED **WINE CONDITIONER**, R34 990, AND GENERATION 6000 FREESTANDING **WINE CONDITIONER**, R69 999, BOTH MIELE; SMEG '4 DOOR FRENCH STYLE' **FRIDGE FREEZER**, R22 999, HIRSCH'S ▶



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FROM LEFT: MIRROR FRIDGE 'SIDE-BY-SIDE F600LM' FRIDGE/FREEZER, R23 195, DEFY; MELLERWARE 'ICE MASTER' ICE MAKER, R2 499, HIRSCH'S



KITCHEN PHOTOGRAPH: KARL ROGERS

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BRASS WITH PALM LEAF
BLADES, R7 900, SKY FANS



RIGHT: **FAN** IN DARK
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R3 930, TIMBER FANS; 'WALL
MOUNT' **FAN** IN SATIN SILVER,
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FROM LEFT: RUSSELL HOBBS 'MIST' **FAN**, R1 379, GAME; 'INVERTER V
M-RANGE' **AIR-CONDITIONER**, R9 999, LG ELECTRONICS

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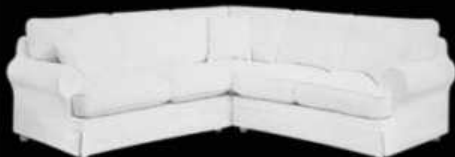
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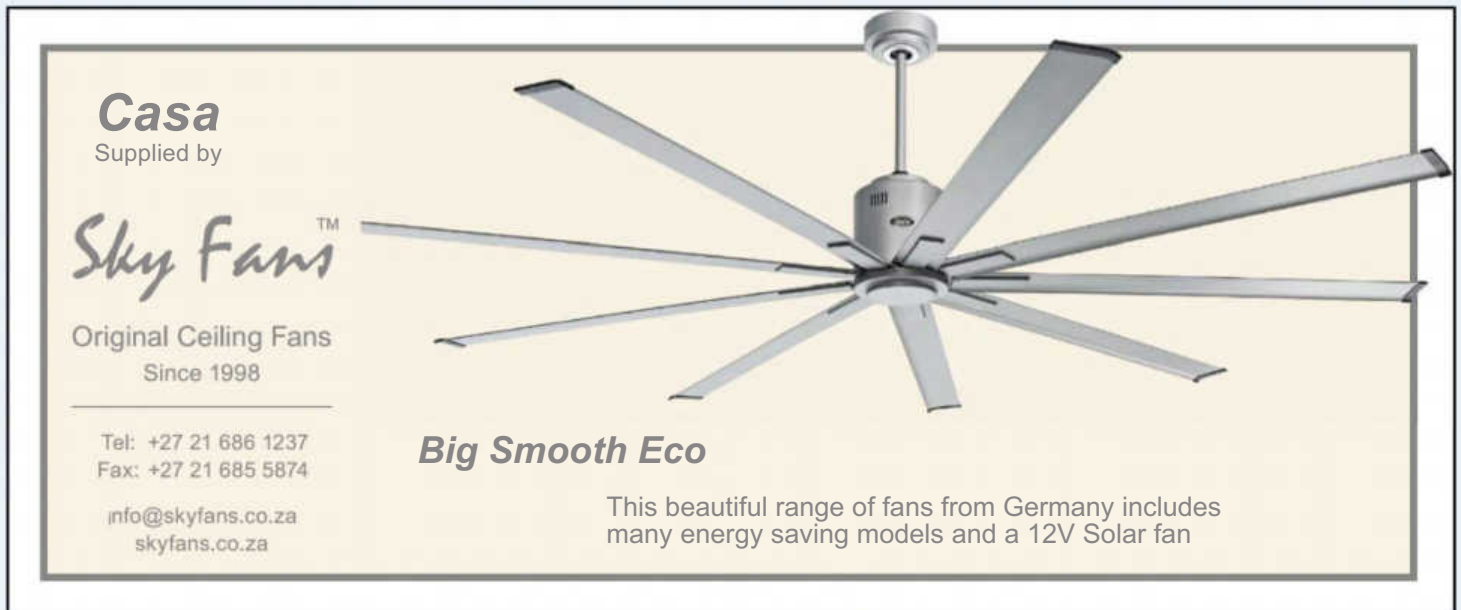
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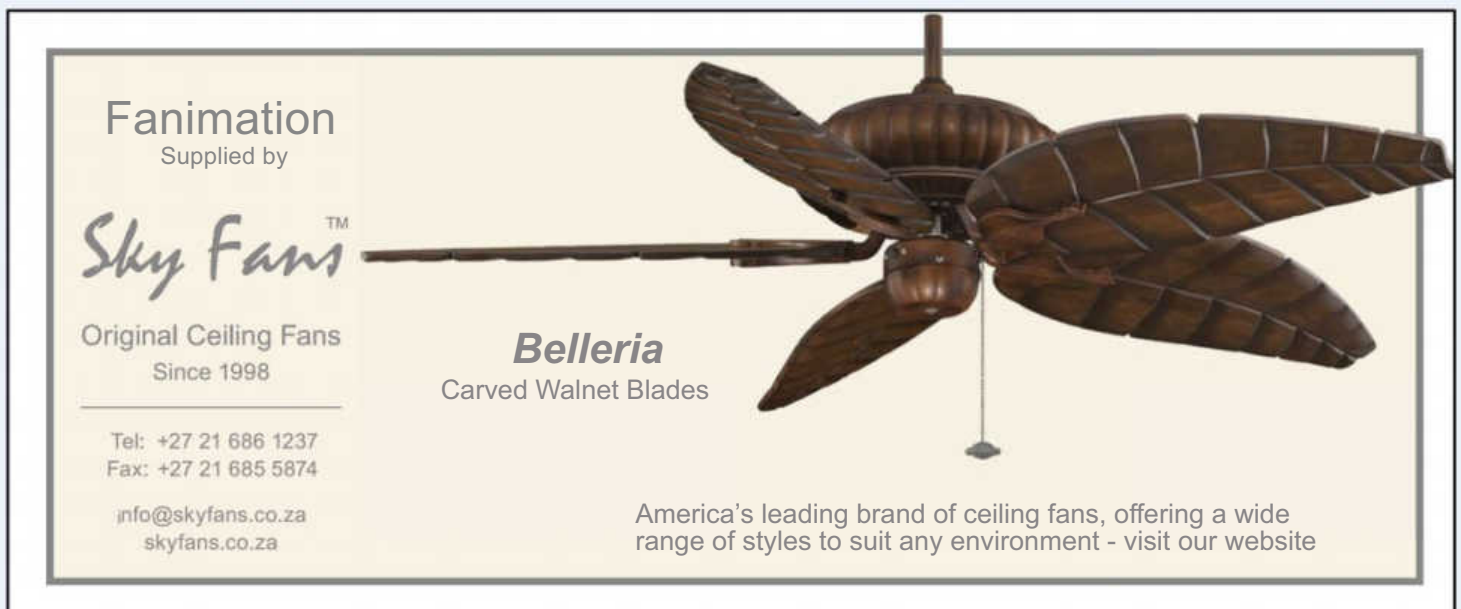
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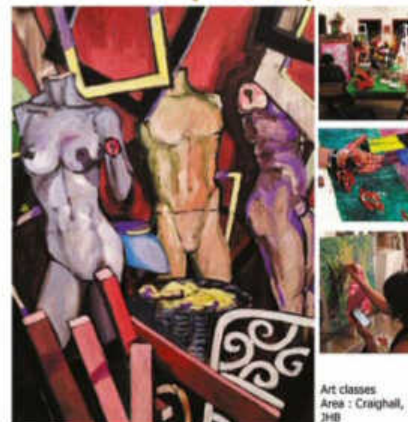


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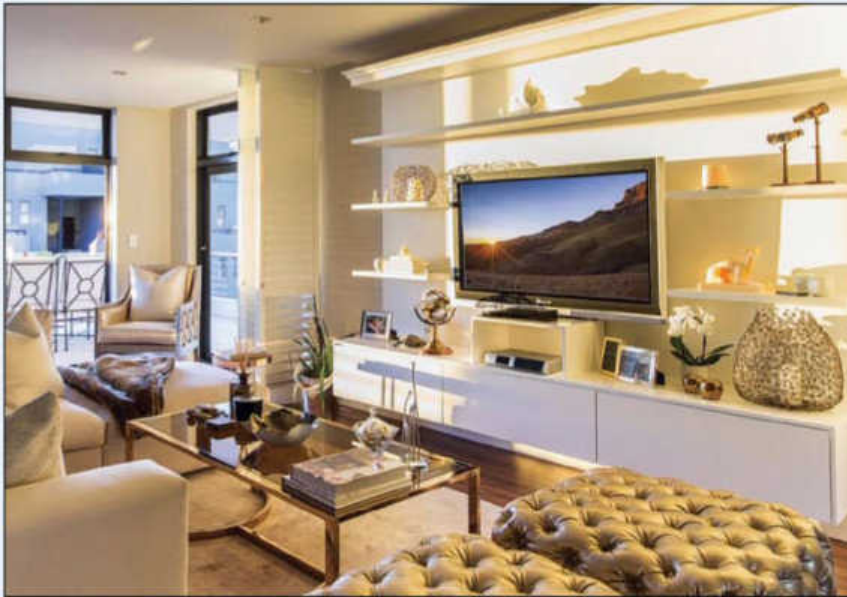
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